EXCLUSION OF STUDENTS FROM SCHOOL

Students and staff with a disease, illness, or injury may attend school if their attendance does not pose a significant risk to themselves or others. Exclusion from attending school is warranted when that person is either too ill to participate in school activities, the condition creates an unsafe or unhealthy environment for others at school, or when the illness or injury requires a level of care or observation that cannot be managed at school.

The R.N. will access students and staff with sudden illnesses and serious injuries to determine the need to exclude them from school. Exclusion from school should apply to students and staff whose presence poses a significant risk to themselves or others.

Temporary exclusion is recommended when the child has any of the following conditions:
  a. The illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in activities;
  b. The illness results in a need for care that is greater than the staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children;
  c. An acute change in behavior – this could include lethargy/lack of responsiveness, irritability, persistent crying, difficult breathing, or having a quickly spreading rash.

Staff should notify the parent/guardian when a child develops new signs or symptoms of illness. Parent/guardian notification should be immediate for emergency or urgent issues. Staff should notify parents/guardians of children who have symptoms that requires exclusion and parents/guardians should remove the child from the school setting as soon as possible. For children whose symptoms do not require exclusion, verbal or written notification of the parent/guardian at the end of the day is acceptable. Most conditions that require exclusion do not require a primary care provider visit reentering school.

School personnel should contact the local health department:
  a. When a child or staff member who is in contact with others has a reportable disease.
  b. If a reportable illness occurs among the staff, children, or families involved with the school community.

School personnel will request the primary care provider’s note to readmit a child if the primary care provider’s advice is needed to determine whether the child is a health risk to others, or if the primary care provider’s guidance is needed about any special care the child requires.

Reference: New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services; Reportable Diseases

DATE:

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