

# Washington County Department of Education

## Coordinated School Health

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As we begin this school year, our main priority is the health of our students and staff. We are encouraging all parents to talk to their children about how infectious diseases can spread and review preventative measures that can reduce their risk of illness. To assist in your decision regarding whether or not to send your child to school, please consider the following recommendations and guidelines:

**Please take your child's temperature each morning before sending to school.**

**Consider keeping your child at home for an extra day of rest and observation if he or she has any of the following symptoms:**

- Very stuffy or runny nose and/or cough
- Mild sore throat (no fever or exposure to anyone that has been ill)
- Headache
- Mild stomach pain

**Definitely keep your child home for treatment and observation if he or she has any of the following symptoms:**

- Fever (greater than 100.4 degrees)
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea
- Loss of taste or smell
- Frequent congested (wet) or croupy cough
- Lots of nasal congestion with frequent blowing of nose
- General malaise or feeling of fatigue, discomfort, weakness, muscle aches or chills

**To help prevent illness, please review with your children how an infectious disease can spread.**

- Transmitted when an infected person touches and/or exchanges body fluids with someone else by coughing, sneezing or even talking. An infectious agent may linger on an inanimate object such as door knob or faucet and can be transmitted by touching the surface.

**We are encouraging the following preventive measures:**

- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others
- Wash your hands often, with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds
- Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available
- Wear a cloth face cover
- Clean and disinfect often

As recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, temperature checks at school will balance the practicality of performing the procedure with the information known of how children manifest infections; specifically COVID-19. We have developed a rapid response plan to quickly isolate, evaluate and determine the best course of action on a case by case basis using clinical evidence.

Should you have any questions, please contact your School Nurse or Coordinated School Health Office. For additional information, please visit the Coordinated School Health webpage.

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