

## When to Keep Your Child Home From School

As the current standards of practice are evolving for the care of students, the Health Team is taking steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. It is the goal of Austin ISD & Ascension Seton Student Health Services to provide prevention strategies that will allow our schools to resume the important work of educating our young people. We want everyone to have confidence we are doing everything we can to provide a safe and healthy learning environment. We will update these guidelines as new information and data about COVID-19 becomes available.

*If a member of the household is either waiting for COVID-19 testing results or has tested positive for COVID-19, contact your school health office for guidance.*

In order to control communicable diseases in school, your child is expected to stay home or will be sent home for the following reasons: **Fever (100.0 or greater), severe headache, body aches, sore throat, diarrhea, vomiting, new rash, new cough, new congestion/runny nose, conjunctivitis (Pink Eye), and/or a sudden loss of taste or smell**

**During COVID Pandemic, student may return to in-person school only when you provide:**

- A statement from a Health Care Provider that symptoms are not COVID-related, **OR**
- 10 days have passed since the start of symptoms **and illness symptoms have resolved as follows, OR**
- a **NEGATIVE COVID test and illness symptoms have resolved as follows.**

**Fever:** Fever-free for 24hours, **without** the use of fever-reducing medications such as acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Motrin).

- Fever-free is a temperature at or below 99.9° F. Use a thermometer to check the temperature; feeling the forehead is not accurate.

**\*Diarrhea or loose bowel movements:** Diarrhea must be resolved for a 24-hour period **without** use of anti-diarrheal medication before the student can return to school.

- Diarrhea is defined as **2** episodes in a 24-hour period (even if there are no other signs of illness).

**\*Vomiting (unrelated to anxiety or motion sickness):** No vomiting within the last 24 hours.

**Rash:** Verified by the healthcare provider that it is not contagious.

**New Cough:** Clearance from a healthcare provider.

**Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye), bacterial or viral:** Clearance from a healthcare provider or when the student is symptom free.

**Taste/Smell:** Clearance by a healthcare provider.

**Non-COVID conditions that require exclusion from school:**

**Ringworm:** Treatment must be started, and area must be covered until symptoms have resolved.

**Vaccine Preventable Diseases:** (chicken pox, hepatitis A, measles, mumps, rubella, pertussis [whooping cough]): Student must have clearance from a healthcare provider.

*\*students with medical conditions must have a note from their provider on file with the school nurse.*