

Dear Parents and Staff,

It has been a pleasure working with your children over the past 5 years here in Union Parish. I hope to continue working with them for years to come. On my page you can find medication order forms if your child needs medication at school and guidelines for school attendance. If you ever need to talk to me you can call me @ 368-9715 ext. 112. Again thank –you and I hope your child has a healthy and happy school year.

Sincerely,

Union Parish School Nurse

Tammy Keene, R.N.

Union Parish School Board

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Helpful Guidelines For School Attendance

Keeping students healthy can be a major effort for both school personnel and parents. Here are some guidelines to consider when deciding whether your child should attend school.

Fever – is a sign of infection or illness. If your child has a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, he/she should remain at home. **Children should be free of fever for 24 hours without medication before returning to school.**

Vomiting and Diarrhea – are often contagious. Your child should be watched closely for dehydration and/or bloody stools. **Children must be free of diarrhea and vomiting for 24 hours without stomach medication before returning to school.**

Runny Nose/Cough – Children often have runny noses/coughs during cold and allergy seasons. These should be carefully watched. **Your child should remain home if he/she is too uncomfortable to benefit from instruction, has a frequent cough and /or thick or discolored ear drainage or is accompanied with a fever.**

Ringworm – is a fungal infection of the skin and may be spread from one child to the other. There are two types: 1) Ringworm of the scalp & 2) Ringworm of the skin. This can be treated with an over the counter type **antifungal** medication (pharmacy can assist you) **the student must be on medications for 24 hours before returning to school, and the area should be covered with a Band – aid if in an exposed area that others may touch.** The parent/guardian should speak with the school nurse or teacher to discuss the treatment regimen **before the student is re-admitted back to class.** Proper treatment is required to prevent the spread to others.

Sores – may be caused by a bacterial skin infection. These often begin around the nose or mouth but may appear at the site of minor injury and then spread to normal skin nearby. They usually develop yellow crusty scabs. **This type of infection is contagious and must be treated with medication only prescribed by a doctor.** If left untreated it may cause serious problems and scarring for the infected child. **Student may return to school after being on medication for at least 24 hours and with a note from the doctor stating they may return to class.**

Rashes – Vary widely, both in appearance and severity. A small, isolated area may not warrant keeping your child home from school, whereas a rash covering a large portion of the body would. **A doctor may be consulted if: a rash accompanies an illness/fever, if the rash covers a large portion of the body, if the rash is spreading, or if the child is too uncomfortable. If a doctor is consulted, a letter is required when returning to school.**

Pink – eye – is another common condition in schools. It is contagious and must be treated with medication that is only prescribed by a doctor. Symptoms include: redness, itching, swelling, drainage and excessive matter upon wakening in the morning. (Eyelids may be “stuck” together) **Do not send student to school with these symptoms! Student may return to school after being on prescribed medication for at least 24 hours and with a note from the doctor stating your child may return to school.**

Head Lice – are often a problem. Any child can get head lice, but it is treatable with time and patience. **Your child must be clear of lice and/ or eggs before returning to school.** About 30% of eggs (nits) can survive treatment and require removal (by hand) before returning to class. **Parents must bring student to school to be checked by school personnel, before returning to class.** Please see our school nurse for further instruction in this matter.

Medications - Finally, students are not allowed to have any medications at school without a medication order signed by their physician. (This rule applies to over the counter medications, cough drops, Tylenol, drops, or cremes of any kind). **This is Louisiana State Law, Administration Code, Bulletin 741, Administration of Medication.** If you have any questions regarding medications at school you may contact me at the school board office.

Union Parish School Nurse