



## West Hartford Non-Public Schools School Exclusion Guidelines School Year 2025 - 2026

The West Hartford Non-Public Schools follow these guidelines for the dismissal of students from school due to illness, and includes recommendations for when a student may return to school. These guidelines incorporate the recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Connecticut Department of Public Health, the West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District and under the guidance of the program's Medical Advisor, Dr. Ann Milanese. As Professional School Nurses, our role is to promote the health of individual students and the entire school community.

1. **Fever**- 100.4° degrees Fahrenheit or higher, the student will be sent home and should remain home until fever free for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever reducing medications. **NOTE:** If additional symptoms for exclusion are exhibited and a student presents with a temperature less than 100.4, the nurse may use her professional judgement to exclude a student from school.
2. **Diarrhea**- occurrence of more than one episode at school, uncontained and/or with additional symptoms. The student can return to school after 24 hours symptom free.
3. **Vomiting**- occurrence of more than one episode of vomiting and associated with other symptoms. May return to school after 24 hours symptom free. Every attempt will be made to distinguish between regurgitating food and vomiting due to illness.  
**Note:** During times of increased GI illness activity in the school or community, such as a norovirus outbreak, the nurse may use discretion and guidance from the West Hartford Health District to extend the exclusion period from 24 to 48 hours after symptoms stop before returning to school.
4. **Runny Nose**- Students who cannot control their secretions and/or have green/ yellowish-brown secretions need to remain home until symptoms improve.
5. **Coughing**- Excessive coughing contributing to the inability of the student to participate in class work or is disruptive to other students. May return when cough is controlled.
6. **Eyes** – A student who presents with eyes that are pink, have drainage and are swollen will be evaluated by the school nurse. The nurse will determine if exclusion is necessary and if medical care is required before the student can remain in school.
7. **Skin Rash / Hives** – A student will be advised to see a health care provider to evaluate any new onset of rash or hives to determine if it is related to a contagious illness. Symptoms will be evaluated to determine if dismissal is necessary. Any fine or blotchy rash on face, trunk or arms and legs will be dismissed. The physician's diagnosis of the condition will determine when a student can return to school and/or by medical note.
8. **Communicable Diagnosis** – The duration of exclusion from school for a student with a communicable diagnosis will be appropriate for the specific diagnosis. In general, the student must be fever-free (without the use of fever reducing medications for at least 24 hours), their symptoms are resolved or resolving and, if needed, they have received or are receiving appropriate treatment for the appropriate amount of time to be non-contagious. For example, a student with strep throat may return to school when they are fever-free (as defined above), their symptoms are resolving and they started their antibiotic, at least, 24



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hours before returning to school (the student is expected to complete the entire course of antibiotics as prescribed). In addition, the treating medical provider should provide a medical note stating the diagnosis and when the student is no longer contagious **before** the student re-enters school and other school related programs.

- 9. Excessive crying / discomfort or pain** – Any student who is unresponsive to first-line treatments such as ice, rest, etc.
- 10. Injury**– Any injury that requires medical attention, a parent will be notified to pick up the student for further evaluation. In an emergency situation, the student will be transported by ambulance to the nearest hospital for treatment as determined by EMS.
- 11. Lice** – A student found to have lice will **NOT** be excluded from school. No notification to the classroom will be conducted since pediculosis has a very low transmission risk in classrooms and is spread primarily through head-to-head contact. The parent of the student will be notified of the findings, the need for treatment, and, if requested, provided with educational information on pediculosis and how to treat. The student can return to school once treatment has occurred.
- 12. Medical Absences/Conditions**– Students returning to school with a medical diagnosis of concussion, or a condition requiring **orthopedic appliances** such as crutches, a brace and/or casting of extremities **MUST** have a medical note from a physician clearing the student to return to school and indicate any accommodations required. Medical clearance **MUST** be received **before** a student can return to PE or participate in any sport activity.
- 13. Mental Health Conditions** – Any student returning to school after a mental health dismissal, acute mental health crisis, or inpatient/outpatient psychiatric hospitalization, **MUST** submit a discharge summary including a plan for safe return to school and academic activities. **Prior to returning to school**, the parent/guardian, school nurse and appropriate school staff will meet to coordinate and develop a Safe Return Plan for the academic environment.

Note: When a student is dismissed for any of the above reasons, it is expected that the student will be **picked up within an hour** of notification unless the nurse is made aware of extenuating circumstances delaying pickup.