



WHEN STUDENTS ARE SICK

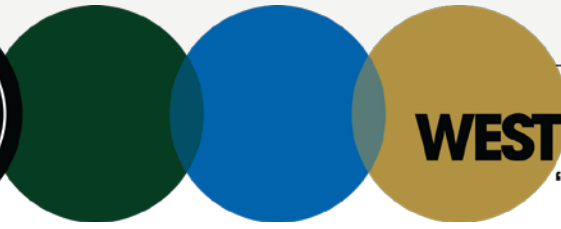
West Fargo Public Schools employs 14 nurses for its 22 schools, which means that most schools only have a nurse available a few hours each day. Our nurses make regularly scheduled visits to each of their assigned buildings to assess students' wellbeing related to accidents, injuries, or illness. They are also responsible for handling allergies, chronic health conditions, immunizations, medication, and screenings. Per the ND Board of Nursing, nurses are not authorized to diagnose medical conditions.

If a nurse is unavailable due to scheduling, each building has a staff member designated as the backup. Therefore, in all instances where "nurse" is used within the district's sick student protocol, another designated staff member may be working with a student and their parents/guardians in the absence of a nurse.

When students become sick at school, they will be taken to the nurse's office and parents/guardians will be notified to pick up their child based on the protocols outlined below. Ill students must be picked up within 30 minutes of receiving the phone call from the school unless alternate arrangements are made with the principal. For the health of others in the office, the student will be asked to wear a face covering while waiting to be picked up.

These protocols are applicable to all types of illnesses; these are NOT specific to COVID-19. As such, all protocols outlined below DO apply to fully vaccinated students. In addition to what is included below, our school nurses adhere to the [Childcare and School Infectious Disease Exclusion Guidance from the ND Department of Health](#). Exceptions to the protocols outlined below will be made if the student has a previously diagnosed condition or a care plan on file that relates to the symptom or condition being exhibited at the time they are seen by the nurse, or the symptom or condition can be attributed to environmental factors.

Last Updated: 11/29/21



**Students will be sent home if they exhibit
any ONE of the following symptoms/conditions:**

Symptom/Condition	Eligible to Return
Contagious infection diagnosed by a healthcare provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prescription medication taken for a full 24 hours• Fever-free for 24 hours without the use of any medication, inclusive of ibuprofen and acetaminophen.
Diarrhea <i>(frequent loose stools, greater than two per hour)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Symptom-free and fever-free for 24 hours without the use of any medication, inclusive of antidiarrheal medication.
Loss of taste or smell	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AFTER 10 days UNLESS proof can be provided of a negative COVID test or an alternative diagnosis from a healthcare provider.<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ A negative test or alternative diagnosis allows for return the following day.
Temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Symptom-free and fever-free for 24 hours without the use of any medication, inclusive of ibuprofen and acetaminophen.
Uncontrolled cough <i>(frequent coughing that makes breathing difficult and/or disrupts the learning environment)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved symptoms and fever-free for 24 hours without the use of any medication, inclusive of cough suppressants.
Undiagnosed rash or sores	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note from a healthcare provider<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ If contagious, follow criteria in "contagious infection" row◦ If not contagious, provide note from provider indicating student is eligible to return to school, has improved symptoms, AND has been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of any medication, inclusive of ibuprofen and acetaminophen.
Vomiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Symptom-free and fever-free for 24 hours without the use of any medication, inclusive of ibuprofen and acetaminophen.

STUDENT'S ELIGIBLE RETURN DATE: _____



Students will be evaluated by the nurse if they exhibit TWO or more of the following symptoms/conditions:

- Abdominal pain
- Chills
- Congestion/runny nose
- Cough
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Muscle/body aches
- Nausea
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat

When a student needs to see the nurse, either by their request or through staff observation, a Nurse's Pass must be sent with the student to the nurse's office. The nurse completes an assessment of the student's condition. If a nurse is unavailable due to scheduling, each building has a staff member designated as the backup.

If the student's condition can be attributed to a cause other than illness (hunger, needing to use the restroom, a condition identified through a Care Plan, etc.), they may be sent back to class. The nurse will provide a summary of their assessment on the Nurse's Pass, which is sent back with the student for their classroom teacher. If the student is sent without a Nurse's Pass, the nurse can send a general note back to the classroom with the student.

If the student is deemed to be sick or they are not well enough to remain in school, parents/guardians will be contacted to pick up their child. In all instances related to the above list of symptoms, students can return to school once their symptoms have improved without the use of medication, including ibuprofen and acetaminophen.

STUDENT'S ELIGIBLE RETURN DATE: _____