



## WHEN STUDENTS ARE SICK

West Fargo Public Schools employs 14 nurses for its 22 schools. They 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.

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. These protocols are applicable to all types of illnesses; these are NOT specific to COVID. As such, all protocols outlined below DO apply to fully vaccinated students.

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

- Contagious infection diagnosed by a healthcare provider
- Diarrhea
- Loss of taste or smell
- Temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher
- Undiagnosed rash or sores
- Vomiting

Except for "loss of taste or smell," students can return to school once they have been symptom-free and fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication.

For "loss of taste or smell," students cannot return to school for 10 days, unless they can provide proof of a negative COVID test or an alternative diagnosis from a healthcare provider. A negative test or alternative diagnosis allows for return the following day.

Before the student goes home, a Binax rapid test can be administered onsite by the parent if they so choose. Students in grades 6-12 may self-administer the test, with parent permission. If the rapid test comes back positive, the child must isolate for 10 days. If the test is negative, the child will be able to return to school once they have been symptom-free and fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication.

If a student is tested by a healthcare provider and both rapid and PCR test types are administered, results from both tests must come back negative before the student is allowed to return.



**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 is sent to the nurse's office with two or more of the symptoms listed above, 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.

If the student is deemed to be sick, parents/guardians will be contacted to pick up their child. For the health of others in the office, the student will be asked to wear a face covering while waiting to be picked up. Students can return to school once their symptoms have improved.

Before the student goes home, a Binax rapid test can be administered onsite by the parent if they so choose. Students in grades 6-12 may self-administer the test, with parent permission. If the rapid test comes back positive, the child must isolate for 10 days. If the test is negative, the child will be able to return to school once their symptoms have improved.

If a student is tested by a healthcare provider and both rapid and PCR test types are administered, results from both tests must come back negative before the student is allowed to return.