

RUNNELS SCHOOL HEALTH POLICY

The obvious general rule is that a child must be well and completely recovered from any illness before returning to school. It is not fair to the other children or the teachers to expose them to contagious illness.

SOME REASONS TO KEEP YOUR CHILD AT HOME:

1. A Temperature of 100.5F or Greater within a 24 Hour Period. A child with this kind of temperature is considered to be ill and may be contagious. For the child's comfort and to prevent spreading illness, children will not be permitted in school with a temperature of 100.5 or higher.
2. Persistent/Disruptive Cough. This type of cough may not only be contagious but is also disruptive to other students in the classroom.
3. Lice/Nits. If a child is known to have a lice infestation, he or she will not be permitted in school until he/she is nit free. Any child with lice must be treated along with their environment and be nit free before returning to the classroom.
4. Chicken Pox. A student with chicken pox may return to school after the lesions are scabbed over and all coughing has subsided.
5. Untreated Strep Throat. A beefy red throat with white patches or ulcerations characterize strep throat and is usually present but not always. Strep is very contagious and potentially can cause serious complications. If your child complains of a sore throat, this may warrant a throat culture at your doctor's office. If your child is found to have strep throat, he or she may return to school after having been treated for 24 hours and if no fever is present.
6. Unexplained or Undiagnosed Rashes. It is very difficult to determine whether rashes are contagious. For this reason, we must have a note from your doctor stating that your child is noncontagious before being permitted to attend school if he/she has a rash.
7. Vomiting and or Diarrhea. Obviously, any child should be kept home if vomiting or actively having diarrhea. Diarrhea is defined as frequent liquid stools that can be uncontrollable.
8. Conjunctivitis or "Pink Eye." Conjunctivitis is very contagious. The sclera (white of eye) is pink and glassy in appearance with purulent drainage. In the morning, the eye is typically glued closed. The student will be permitted to return to school after being medicated for the condition and if there is no drainage present.
9. Very young children, especially those in preschool, with green nasal drainage are very contagious because they are not able to effectively remove this drainage. They wipe their secretions with their little hands and pass on germs to other children via the toys and objects they touch in their environment. Keep them home until their nasal drainage is clear in color.
10. Students in Preschool and Elementary will not be allowed to attend school after the administration of Benadryl. If your child does not normally exhibit drowsiness, dizziness, stomach upset or blurred vision after taking Benadryl, these are still documented side effects of this medication and may still potentially develop. While at school, your child participates in many activities requiring alertness and movement that may be impaired by this medication. In an attempt to prevent any unnecessary injury caused by these side effects, we are asking that all children abstain from taking Benadryl before attending school or be kept home if taking this medication. If it is necessary to administer this antihistamine in order to prevent an allergic reaction while at school, you will be notified and asked to pick up your child.

*Your cooperation is appreciated.
This policy applies to all students and
protects all of the children.*

*For questions, please call the clinic
at 756-5837.*

MEDICATION POLICY

Only medication prescribed by a physician and medication listed on the **Over-the-Counter Medication** form will be administered during school hours by the staff at Runnels Schools. Prescription medication must be brought to the school by the parent in a current container that meets pharmaceutical standards. Parental and physician authorization must be documented on the **Physician and Parental Authorization** forms before medication will be administered, without exception. Over-the-Counter (OTC) medication cannot be administered by Runnels School staff other than the medication listed on the **Over-the-Counter Medication** form. A parent must administer any other OTC medication to their own child and report this medication administration to the appropriate office personnel or school nurse. **Children shall not carry medication on their person, in lockers, book bags or lunch boxes on school grounds unless ordered by the physician and O.K.'d by the school nurse (i.e. inhalers, Epipens).**

CLINIC SERVICES

A school nurse is available during school hours only. Services provided in the clinic are as follows:

Basic first aid for injuries that occur during school hours, Treatment of illnesses that occur during school hours, Medication administration in compliance with our medication policy, Student screenings, Health maintenance for those students with chronic illnesses.

If your child is seen in the clinic for anything more than minor illness or injury you will be notified. For this reason it is imperative to provide us with up-to-date phone numbers for both parent and emergency contact persons.

Our main goal is to keep healthy children in school, to keep them safe and healthy while they are here, and to identify those children needing medical referral. Nurses practice under strict guidelines and are not allowed to make medical diagnoses. Therefore, any symptoms exhibited at home need to be addressed by your child's physician.