

**SOUTH HUNTINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**60 Weston Street, Huntington Station, New York 11746**



ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR STUDENT SERVICES  
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**Dear Parents and Guardians:**

**When to keep your child home from school:**

1. Fever greater than 100°, may return to school when they are fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.
2. Vomiting – within 24 hours.
3. Diarrhea – please keep child home until resolved, viral gastroenteritis can spread rapidly in school.
4. Rashes – can be allergic or viral, recommend seeking medical treatment.
5. Conjunctivitis – bacterial – student wakes up with yellowish drainage which is crusty, eyes reddened.  
Medical treatment recommended so student is most likely treated with antibiotics and/or bacterial eye drops.
6. Colds/cough – depends on the severity of symptoms; not necessary to keep the child home for more than a few days unless advised by the doctor.

**Illness/Conditions which are a concern to parents:**

1. Bed bugs – usually active and feed on blood at night. They are a nuisance, but the bites are not known to spread disease. Bite is usually painless, may become swollen and itch much like a mosquito bite. If you have concerns for your child, please call your doctor. If you have concerns regarding bed bugs in school, please feel free to contact the school. Suffolk County Department of Health would be available to help you with concerns regarding bed bugs in the home. The number for Suffolk County Department of Health is 631-853-3055.
2. Influenza – contagious disease of the respiratory tract. It causes fever, chills, headache, muscle aches, malaise, sore throat, and cough. The New York State Department of Health recommends the flu injection for everyone over the age of 6 months. Please contact your physician about receiving the flu injection or if you think you have the flu to receive the proper medical treatment and advice.

3. Lice – Head lice are a common occurrence among school age children. It spreads through direct contact and sharing of personal items. It is very important to teach the children about how to decrease the risk of head lice. Head lice are small brown insects no larger than sesame seeds that live and feed on the human scalp. The female head louse lay eggs (nits) on the hair close to the scalp. The nits look like tiny, whitish ovals that are glued to hair shafts and usually hatch within two weeks. Head lice can be hard to locate because they move to avoid light. You must check your child's head closely. You must treat head lice as soon as it is detected. Please consult your local pharmacy. Upon return to school, have the child and parent visit the nurse. Please bring the empty bottle that was used to treat the lice. Your school nurse and local department of health are always willing to assist you.
  
4. M.R.S.A. – (Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus) is a type of infection that is resistant to a certain class of antibiotics. There has been an increase of reported infections in our communities and schools. It is important to keep wounds covered with a clean, dry bandage. If a wound does not heal, medical attention is strongly recommended. The only way to determine MRSA is through laboratory testing ordered by your family physician or health care provider. Children should be taught proper hand washing, particularly before eating and after using the restroom. Children participating in sporting events should wash their hands before and after each practice or game. Make sure all clothing is washed daily and there should be no exchange of items among students.

Take medications as prescribed by the doctor and always take a proactive approach. NYS Department of Health, Suffolk County Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control are available as outside resources. Feel free to call the school nurse with any questions or concerns.

#### **Administration of Medication Policy**

South Huntington School District requires a written doctor's order, written parental permission, and medication in the properly labeled bottle, the original pharmacy labeled container for medication to be administered. Parents are asked to bring the medication to school. Please feel free to call the school nurse for further clarification.

**Absence** – Please notify the school of your child's absence and provide a note to the school upon the student's return.

Sincerely,



Jane Samuels, R.N., B.S.N.

Nurse Coordinator/SHIP Nurse