



In the event of a communicable disease/condition, certain exclusion and readmission criteria will be maintained by the district.

To protect other students from contagious illnesses, students infected with certain diseases/illnesses are not allowed to come to school while presumed contagious. It is requested that parents notify Health Services or the administrative staff when a student is diagnosed with a communicable or contagious disease. The school nurse or administrative staff require a note from a parent or health care worker (Physician, local health authority, Advanced Practice Nurse or Physician's Assistant) for readmission to school when a student has been excluded from attendance for a communicable disease.

The school nurse will use her clinical judgment regarding illnesses or situations that warrant further medical evaluation and/or exclusion from school. The American Academy of Pediatrics, the Texas Department of State Health Services, and the Melissa ISD recommend that a student be kept home and/or will be sent home from school if any of the following conditions exist:

- Temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or above. Temperature must be below 100 Fahrenheit without the aid of fever reducing medication for more than 24 hours before child can return to school.
- Active vomiting (two or more times in 24 hours). A student may not return to school unless it has been 24 hours since the last vomiting episode or a physician acknowledges the cause of vomiting is not related to an infectious disease.
- Undetermined rash over any part of the body until a medical provider or the health department has determined the condition is not infectious.
- Active diarrhea (two or more episodes within 24 hours). Many different viral and bacterial agents may cause diarrhea. The child **MUST** be excluded from attendance until the diarrheal illness has resolved or until a medical provider or the health department has determined the condition is not infectious. The student needs to be capable of self-care during a diarrheal illness.
- Diarrhea or stools that contain blood or mucus.
- Pain and/or swelling at the angle of the jaw.
- Scaly, round patches on the body which may indicate ringworm.
- Red, draining eyes with pus formation and/or crusts (pink eye or conjunctivitis).
- Mouth sores and/or drooling until a medical provider or the health department has determined the condition is not infectious.
- Signs of severe illness, including fever, irritability, difficulty breathing, crying that doesn't stop with the usual comforting, or extreme sleepiness.

If a student becomes ill at school, there are facilities and personnel to accommodate the student until the parent can be reached to take the student home. School district personnel will adhere to the exclusion and readmission recommendations provided by the Texas Department of State Health Services.

- Students or adults with fever shall not be readmitted until the fever subsides (See **FEVER**)
- Students or adults with diarrhea shall not be readmitted until diarrhea subsides (See **DIARRHEAL DISEASES**)
- Students or adults with conjunctivitis (pink eye), bacterial meningitis, or tuberculosis shall not be readmitted without a clearance from a health care provider.

Parents will be informed if their child has been exposed to a communicable disease that requires exclusion. The notification will include the signs and symptoms of the disease, so that immediate medical advice and treatment can be sought.

If it is necessary for a student to leave school because of an illness or injury, the student must be signed out by the parent/guardian, or a designee, if the parent or guardian is unavailable.

For a complete list of medical conditions which warrant exclusion from school, please visit the Health Services Department at www.melissaisd.org or visit TDSHS at https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/health/schools_childcare/resources/.