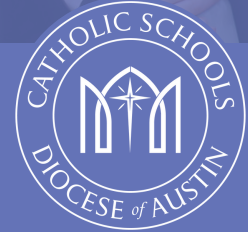


Health Guidelines for Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Austin

Updated March 6, 2024



To help avoid the spread of all viruses, below are guidelines all schools will use to exclude students from school and guidelines for their return to school. These guidelines are from the Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops Education Department Health Manual.

Exclusion Guidelines	Return to School Guidelines
Measured temperature of 100° or above	Fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever suppressing medications
Vomiting, nausea, or severe abdominal pain	Symptom free for 24 hours
Marked drowsiness or malaise	Symptom free
Sore throat, acute cold, or persistent cough	Symptom free
Red, inflamed or discharging eyes	Written physician release
Wound, skin and soft tissue infections	Exclude until drainage is contained and covered with a clean dry bandage
Swollen glands around jaws, ears, or neck	Written physician release
Suspected scabies or impetigo	Written physician release
Earache	Symptom free
Any skin lesion in the weeping stage	Covered and diagnosed as non-infectious
Head lice	Lice and nit free
Diarrhea	Diarrhea free for 24 hours without the use of diarrhea suppressing medications. <i>Diarrhea is 3 or more episodes of loose stool in a 24-hour period</i>
Other symptoms suggestive of acute illness	Written physician release

- *Students should remain at home when they exhibit the first symptoms of a disease.*
- *When a student in school is suspected of having a communicable disease, the student should be separated from other students until the student can be sent home.*
- *Encourage washing hands, covering coughs and sneezes, and cleaning frequently touched surfaces.*