**VSH Illness Protocol**

An individual should not attend or remain at school with certain symptom(s) or combination of symptoms, illness, or if feeling unwell.  Contact your school’s administration for information on when to return to school if you are uncertain.

**Symptoms**

* + **Fever 100.4 Degrees or Above** - Individuals should be fever-free and off of all fever-reducing medication for the last 48 hours prior to returning to school.
  + **Sore Throat or Tonsillitis** – A sore throat could be a symptom of a more serious illness.
  + **Spots/Rash** – Do not attend school with a rash until your health care provider says it is safe to do so.  An individual with ringworm, scabies, impetigo, or other skin infection may return to school after 24 hours of appropriate treatment.  The affected area should be covered if possible.
  + **Cough/Cold Symptoms** – Individuals with a cough or cold symptoms need to stay home and possibly see their health care provider. Common cold symptom(s) including: stuffy or runny nose, congestion, body aches, or chills and combined with a headache may indicate an infection. If you experience several cold symptoms at one time, contact your health care provider or school’s health professional for information on when to return to school.
  + **Vomiting or Diarrhea** – Stay home with vomiting or diarrhea.  Nausea is an uneasiness of the stomach and may come before vomiting or diarrhea.
  + **Eye Inflammation or Discharge** – If the eye(s) is red with cloudy or yellow/green drainage, matted eyelids after sleep, eye pain, or redness contact your health care provider for recommendation and/or treatment. If diagnosed with pink eye, they may return to school 24 hours after treatment has begun.
  + **Difficulty Breathing** - New onset of difficulty breathing or shortness of breath can be an indication of a respiratory infection or other condition.
  + **Head Lice** – Must be treated with a special over-the-counter preparation for killing live head lice and progress made on removing all nits before returning. School administrators will check to ensure there are no live lice for an immediate return.
  + **Acute Pain** – Individuals with pain that requires narcotic medication for relief should not attend school.
  + **New Loss of Taste or Smell** - A new loss of taste or smell can be an early symptom to a viral upper respiratory infection.

**\*Symptom Free/Asymptomatic includes**:improvement and/or resolution of symptom(s), diarrhea, vomiting, and fever-free for the last 48 hours prior to returning, without the use of fever-reducing medication. COVID-19 testing is encouraged for symptomatic individuals.