



South Pasadena Unified School District
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IMPORTANT HEALTH NOTICE

FOR YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH We ask for your cooperation to help the school provide a healthy environment for your child. As parents, we have many responsibilities, and we sometimes send children to school with a fever or who are demonstrating other symptoms of communicable disease. With this in mind, we hope that the following information will be helpful for you to evaluate whether or not you should send your child to school. We encourage you to consult your physician and follow his/her recommendation if you suspect a condition that could be communicable to others.

COLDS There are many viruses that cause the common cold. The period of infectiousness from various cold viruses ranges from one to three days. If your child has a cold, the safest course of action is not to send him/her to school for at least 24 hours after the onset of cold symptoms.

STREP THROAT Once a child has completed a 24-hour period of antibiotic treatment for "strep throat," he/she is not considered to be infectious. Children and young adults with severe infections, however, may not feel like participating in school activities regardless of the medication they may be taking, for up to 48 hours. Please take into consideration your child's level of comfort and energy before sending him/her to school.

BACTERIAL CONJUNCTIVITIS (PINK EYE) If your child has bacterial conjunctivitis and is under antibiotic treatment, he/she may attend school. There is, however, a conjunctivitis associated with viral infections that is highly infectious for at least two days; therefore, we urge you to assess your child carefully before sending him/her to school. Allergic conjunctivitis is not contagious and children may be treated and may attend school. Only a doctor can determine the type of conjunctivitis your child is experiencing.

FEVER Following an infection associated with fever (even a low grade one), a child should remain at home for at least 24 hours. Once the child has been fever free without medication for 24 hours, he/she may return to school. Fevers tend to occur or increase in the later part of the day.

VOMITING AND DIARRHEA Children who have suffered a bout of this illness at night may be very weak the next day and unable to function in school. Please keep your child home for 24 hours after they are free of symptoms. If your child is vomiting or has diarrhea in the morning, he/she should stay home.

HEAD LICE Head lice are in epidemic proportion in Los Angeles County. After a long and busy summer, with many activities such as swimming, hiking, and camping, there is an increased possibility that these "nasty nits" and lice will be brought into the school environment. To reduce this risk, parents are urged to inspect their child's head and hair thoroughly and on a regular basis, **at least once a week.**

Head lice and nits (the eggs) concentrate at the nape of the neck, around the ears, and at the crown of the head. They are small, oval, and gray-white in appearance. Unlike dandruff, they **are not** easily removed from the shaft of the hair.

If your child has nits or lice, do not send him/her to school. Please notify the school and give the reason for the absence. Consult your health provider for treatment, or ask your local pharmacist for a recommended lice shampoo. Wash all clothing and bed linens in hot water and vacuum the carpets and furniture. South

Pasadena Unified School District has a no nit policy and your child will not be re-admitted to school unless he/she is free of nits. Therefore, when returning to school after having head lice, school personnel must inspect your child before he/she will be re-admitted to class.

TO ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN REQUIRING MEDICATION DURING SCHOOL HOURS

When prescribed by your physician, it is sometimes necessary for your child to take medication during school hours. California Education Code Sections 49423 and 49480, make it possible for the school nurse or other designated school personnel to help you carry out your physician's orders, provided that the following procedures are adhered to:

1. A signed physician's recommendation form must be on file for medication to be given at school. The recommendation must be on file for prescription **or** over-the-counter medication. A physician's recommendation for continuous medications must be renewed every school year.
2. **ALL** medication must be given from the prescription bottle or vial. Absolutely no medication will be dispensed that has been sent in plastic bags, envelopes, etc.
3. A witnessed phone verification from the physician may be accepted for short-term (five days or less) episodic medication.
4. School personnel may not dispense medication that has been sent to school by the parent with a written request by the parent that has not been verified by a physician.
5. No medication will be given at school without the dosage schedule time and amount that is to be given included on the prescription label.
6. The school will honor verification written by the physician on any form he/she chooses to use, although a school medication form is preferred.
7. Students observed by school personnel administering unauthorized medication to themselves will be reported to their parents.
8. All medication must be collected by parents at the end of the school year. The District will dispose of all medication not claimed.

Legal References:	Education Code
Ed. Code 49423	Administration of prescribed medication for pupil
Ed. Code 49480	Notice to school by parent/guardian; consultation with physician

Thank you for your concern and your cooperation. If you have further questions, please contact the school your child attends.

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SPUSD
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