

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

For more information on protecting yourself from upper respiratory infections listed under the “Emergency Procedures” tab, see “Infection Control” (pg. 16).

A communicable disease is a disease that can be spread from one person to another. Germs cause communicable diseases (bacteria, virus, fungus, parasites).

Does the person have SIGNS OF LIFE-THREATENING ILLNESS:

- Difficulty breathing or swallowing, rapid breathing?
- Severe coughing, noisy breathing?
- Fever over 100.0 degrees F in combination with lethargy, extreme sleepiness, abnormal behavior

YES →



CALL EMS 9-1-1.

NO ↓

Does the person have? SIGNS OF PROBABLE ILLNESS or INFECTION:

- Redness, swelling, drainage of eye?
- Unusual spots/rash with fever or itching?
- Crusty, bright yellow, swollen, tender, red or open draining skin sores?
- Diarrhea (more than two loose stools a day)?
- Vomiting?
- Yellow skin or yellow “white of eye”?
- Fever greater than 100.0 degrees F?
- Extreme tiredness or lethargy?
- Unusual behavior?

Additional signs & symptoms:

Fussiness	Runny nose	Mild cough
Headache	Itchy scalp	Stomach ache
Sore throat	Ear ache	

YES →

Remove student from the classroom, contact responsible school nurse or administrator and parent or legal guardian.
ENCOURAGE MEDICAL CARE

Monitor child for worsening of symptoms and contact parent/legal guardian.

In general, there will be little that you can do for a person in school who has an infection; however, limit the exposure and spread of disease to others by encouraging student(s) to cover mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing; use a tissue and encourage hand washing or use of alcohol based hand gel. Refer to your school’s exclusion policy for illness.

Common diseases include: *Chicken pox, head lice, pink eye, strep throat and influenza (flu).*