

LETTER TO PARENT

2024-08-22

Butler Elementary

Subject: Infectious Diseases in Primary School

Infectious diseases are common at school and can have an impact on health. Certain infectious diseases are contagious and can be transmitted from one person to another.

INFORM THE SCHOOL!

- **If your child is ill, you must inform the school and mention the reason of his absence.** If you take him to the doctor, ask whether your child has a contagious disease; if so, **please notify the school of the diagnosis** (see the list of diseases to be reported on the reverse side). The CIUSSS nurse will be informed and, if necessary, will contact you for more information as well as to answer your questions.
- If your child is ill, he/she must stay home until he/she is able to participate in school activities. For certain contagious diseases, the child's return must be delayed until the end of the contagious period (see Symptoms for which the exclusion of a child is usually recommended).
- If your child has a special medical condition such as immunosuppression, pulmonary or heart disease, please ask your doctor if he/she is at higher risk for certain contagious diseases and advise the school administration. The CIUSSS nurse will be informed and will let you know if a case is reported at school.

VACCINATION AND HYGIENE: THE BEST MEANS OF PREVENTION

Vaccination is the best way to prevent certain diseases. As parents, you are responsible for having your child vaccinated.

- Your child should have received vaccines against diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, German measles, mumps, meningococcus serogroup C and chickenpox (if he/she has not already had this disease after one year of age).
- Quebec Vaccination Program also specifies that:
- Children 4-6 years old receive the booster of the vaccine against the diphtheria, the pertussis (whooping cough), the tetanus and the poliomyelitis as well as against the chicken pox.
- Children in grade 4 receive the vaccine against:
- hepatitis A and B
- The vaccine against human papilloma virus

Furthermore, if some vaccines missing for your child, they will be offered to you. For further information, consult your doctor or your CIUSSS to make sure that your child's vaccination is up to date.

- Hygienic measures are also important to prevent the spread of contagious diseases. Proper hand washing, using paper tissue when coughing or sneezing (or coughing and sneezing into your sleeve or upper arm), avoiding sharing personal objects, covering wounds with a dressing and taking proper measures to avoid contact with blood from another person. These are simple and effective actions that everyone can take.

LIST OF DISEASES TO BE REPORTED BY PARENTS TO THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Bacterial meningitis

- Mumps
- Oxyuriasis (Pinworm)
- Pediculosis (lice)
- Measles
- German measles
- Scarlet fever or pharyngitis with group A streptococcus
- Chickenpox

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- Conjunctivitis
- Covid-19
- Pertussis (Whooping cough)
- Erythema infectiosum (5th disease)
- Scabies
- Gastroenteritis
- Hepatitis A
- Influenza
- Impetigo

It is possible that for some of these diseases you will receive a letter during the year. These letters were written by the *ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux* according to the « *Prévention et contrôle des infections dans les services de garde et écoles du Québec* » guide.

Thank you for your collaboration

Rébéka Rémillard
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Direction de santé publique de l'Estrie

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a child is usually recommended)

Symptoms for which the exclusion of a child is usually recommended

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Symptoms	What to do ¹	When to come back
Inability of the student to follow group activities without unusual effort	Notify parents that they must pick up their child as soon as possible.	When the student is able to follow group activities effortlessly.
Inability of the teacher to take care of the sick student without compromising the well-being of other students.	Notify parents that they must pick up their child as soon as possible.	When the student does not require or very little additional care that does not compromise the well-being of other students.
Presence of symptoms suggestive of severe illness, eg fever with impairment of general condition, lethargy, irritability, persistent crying, difficulty breathing, signs of dehydration.	Notify parents that they must pick up their child as soon as possible.	When the student's condition is improved.
Rash with fever or impairment of general health.	Notify parents that they must pick up their child as soon as possible. A medical evaluation is recommended to clarify whether it is a contagious disease.	Variable according to identified cause.
Vomiting: 2 or more during the last 24 hours.	Notify parents that they must pick up their child as soon as possible.	After resolution (no vomiting for 24 hours).
Diarrhea: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the student can not reach to the toilet for each stool (incontinent); • If stools contain blood or mucus; • If he has a fever. 	Notify parents that they must pick up their child as soon as possible.	When the student is no longer feverish, is continent and has no blood or mucus in stools.
Skin lesions with purulent discharge.	Exclude if the lesions can not be covered with an impermeable dressing.	If there is no more discharge, if the lesions are crusted or can be covered by a dressing.

¹ At any time, when the condition of the child is considered of concern, an emergency medical consultation may be required.

