

## ***Important News From The Clinic***

Like most school systems in the area, we are currently seeing many ill students. It is critical for parents to know and follow our school policy concerning illness. By adhering to the following, we hope to keep the spread of illness to a minimum, as well as insure that our students are coming to school feeling well enough to cope with the demands of a typical school day.

We are seeing a variety of illnesses, including strep, a virus causing sore throat, cough, and sometimes fever, as well as a gastrointestinal virus. As a school community, it will take the diligence of all to keep our students as healthy as possible and reduce the spread of these illnesses. Please remind your children to wash their hands often, especially before eating.

- If your child has had a gastrointestinal illness, they must be kept home **AT LEAST 24 HOURS AFTER** vomiting, diarrhea, and cramps have stopped.
- In the event of a fever causing illness, your child **MUST BE FEVER FREE FOR AT LEAST 24 HOURS** (without the help of analgesics) before returning to school, even if they appear to be feeling better.
- If your child is prescribed an antibiotic for any contagious illness, **THEY MUST BE ON THE ANTIBIOTIC FOR AT LEAST 24 HOURS** before returning to school. Please remember that some students will feel ill for longer than 24 hours and should stay home until they are up to the rigors of the school day.
- If your child becomes ill while at school, it is your responsibility to **PICK UP YOUR CHILD PROMPTLY** (within an hour after receiving a call from the clinic). This may require using extended family or friends if you are unable to get to school in a timely manner. If you make these arrangements in advance, your child won't be left for prolonged periods feeling ill in the clinic, and the risk of infecting others will be reduced.
- If your child tells you they are not feeling well before school, please take them seriously. Listen to their symptoms and check their temperature, throat, listen to their cough, etc. **BEFORE** determining whether to send them to school. When your child arrives at school, it **IMPLIES** that they are well enough to be in class without repeated complaints to their teachers and multiple visits to the clinic. Please impress this upon your child, as they do not realize that constant disruptions undermine the teacher's ability to provide instruction to the whole class.
- If your child is home sick, please call the office to let us know. It is helpful if you let us know if your child has strep, flu, etc. as the teachers can then watch for similar symptoms in classmates.