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# BRECKSVILLE-BROADVIEW HTS. CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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*"where fine education is a heritage"*

## **Common Childhood Contagious Illnesses**

To help answer questions concerning common childhood contagious illnesses, we have listed illnesses with their symptoms and our school policy which is developed using standards from the Ohio Department of Health.

**Chickenpox:** The child develops a skin rash consisting of small blisters that are grouped together and then scab over in 5-7 days. A slight fever may be present and the disease is transmitted mainly through secretions from the infected person. The child must remain at home until all blisters are scabbed over.

**Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye):** The eye is red and possibly swollen with burning and yellowish drainage. The illness is transmitted by contact with the drainage. Your child should remain home until treated with an antibiotic for 24 hours.

**Fifth Disease (Slap Face):** A bright red rash develops on the face/cheeks and then on the trunk and extremities. The rash appears lacy and worsens with sun exposure and heat. The illness is usually transmitted before the rash develops and is spread through respiratory droplets. The child may return to school once the diagnosis is made and there is no fever.

**Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease:** This is a virus that may cause fever, painful ulcers in the mouth and small blisters on the palms of the hands, soles of the feet, and buttocks. The illness is transmitted by respiratory droplets. The student may return to school when there is no drainage from blisters and no fever.

**Impetigo:** This is a skin infection that begins with pus filled blisters and progresses into crusted itchy lesions. This condition is spread by direct contact with drainage from the lesions. Your child should remain at home until receiving 24 hours of antibiotic treatment and the sores are no longer draining.

**Meningitis Viral/Bacterial:** This severe illness has a high fever, stiff neck, and headache. There may also be sensitivity to light. This illness is spread through direct contact with nose or throat secretions. The child should remain out of school until fever free and released by a physician. The physician should provide this in writing.

**Mononucleosis:** This is a viral illness with symptoms of sore throat, headache, fatigue, and swollen neck glands. It is spread by direct contact with saliva. The child may return to school if able to tolerate the symptoms which may be prolonged or reoccur.

**MRSA (Staph Infection):** This is a bacterial skin infection that may begin as a small pus filled blister or boil accompanied with severe pain. This is spread by direct contact with the drainage. The child should remain home until fever free, 24 hours of antibiotic therapy, the sore can be covered by a bandage and has been released by a physician.

**Ringworm:** This is a fungal infection of the skin. The infection begins with blisters that may be pus filled. They progress to yellowish crusted painless sores with irregular outlines. Itching is common and the rash is usually found on exposed skin areas and around the mouth or nose. The lesions drain and can be spread by direct contact with the drainage (skin to skin or objects touched by the drainage). The student must have treatment from the physician for 24 hours and the drainage stopped before returning to school.

**Scabies:** Scabies is an infectious disease of the skin caused by a mite and is characterized by blister-like lesions and/or wavy lines often found in the space between fingers, , inside of wrists, at elbows, armpits, and belt-line. Itching is intense, especially at night. The rash is spread by direct contact and your child should remain home until 24 hours of treatment is completed.

**Strep Throat:** This is a bacterial infection with symptoms of sore throat, fever, and sometimes a headache and stomachache. This infection is spread by respiratory droplets for sneezing and coughing. The child should remain at home until fever free and 24 hours of treatment is completed.