

Protocol

Fever

Although variations can occur, an elevation of the body's temperature to 100 degrees Fahrenheit (37.7 degrees Celsius) or above is generally considered a fever and a possible sign of illness. It is important to note that in most 2-5 day childhood illnesses, a fever is the lowest in the morning, rises in the afternoon and is highest in the evening and at night. As a child begins to recover, the morning temperature will be normal, with fever still present later in the day. Students should be excluded from school anytime during the day under the following conditions:

1. Oral temperature of 100.6 degrees Fahrenheit or above.
2. Axillary temperature of 99.6 degrees Fahrenheit or above.

Management Guidelines

1. Assess the student's temperature using a thermal temperature strip or a electronic digital thermometer. "Ear" thermometers are expensive and their accuracy is not yet firmly established. Notify the parent/guardian of a fever greater than 100.6 degrees orally or 99.6 degrees axillary to pick up the child from school.
2. School personnel are prohibited from administration of anti-pyretics. Staff may offer student sips of cold water or ice chips in an attempt to reduce fever.
3. It is recommended that students be fever-free (less than 100 degrees Fahrenheit without the use of anti-pyretic medication) for 24 hours before returning to school.
4. A fever of 105 degrees Fahrenheit or greater is considered a medical emergency. If parent is not readily available, call 911 for EMS assistance.

Date

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