

Attendance & Engagement System of Support & Professional Communities

SUPER

Talk Tuesdays

Developed by the CSDE in collaboration with SERC

10/29/2024



Today's Agenda

Welcome

Christine Kuehlewind, Ann Marie Cordisco, and Holli Ryan, State Education Resource Center (SERC)

What's New at CSDE and Partners

Chlo-Anne Bobrowski, MSN RN, Education Manager for School Health and Student Support Services, CSDE
"Student Health and Safety"

Kari Sullivan Custer, Attendance & Engagement Consultant, CSDE

Jay Brown, Bureau of Special Education Consultant (Academic Office), CSDE

Connecticut Department of Public Health

Kathy Kudish

Deepa Mavani

Lynn Sosa

Kristin Soto

Strategies for The Health Office To Support School Attendance

Suzanne Levasseur, MSN, APRN, CPNP, Supervisor of Health Services, Westport Public Schools

Upcoming Attendance & Engagement Meetings

Christine Kuehlewind, SERC



Welcome

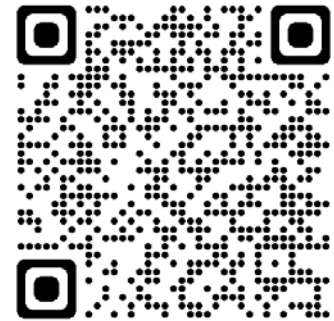
October 21, 2024

- [Press Release: Connecticut's 2025 Teacher of the Year](#)

October 24, 2024

- [Survey: Personal Technology Use in Schools](#) (please complete one survey per district by Friday, November 8, 2024)
- [Updated Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer and Religious Expression in Public Schools](#)
- [Press Release: Connecticut's 2025 Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Announcement](#)

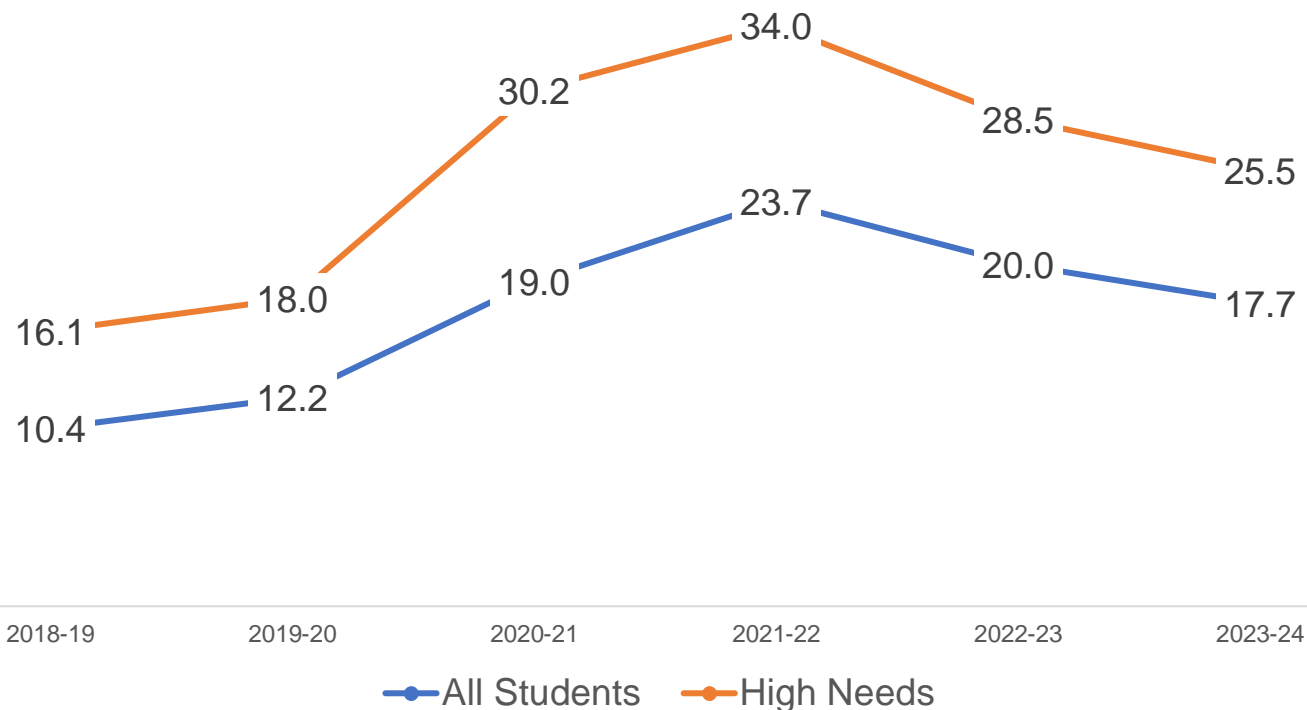
Superintendent's Digest





Attendance Results – September?

Chronic Absenteeism Trend
Percentage of Students Chronically Absent



- September 2024?
- How was attendance in your district/school for the past month?
- Did you have a strong start?
- Scale 1 to 5 (1 being the best and 5 the lowest)
- What are some strategies that worked?

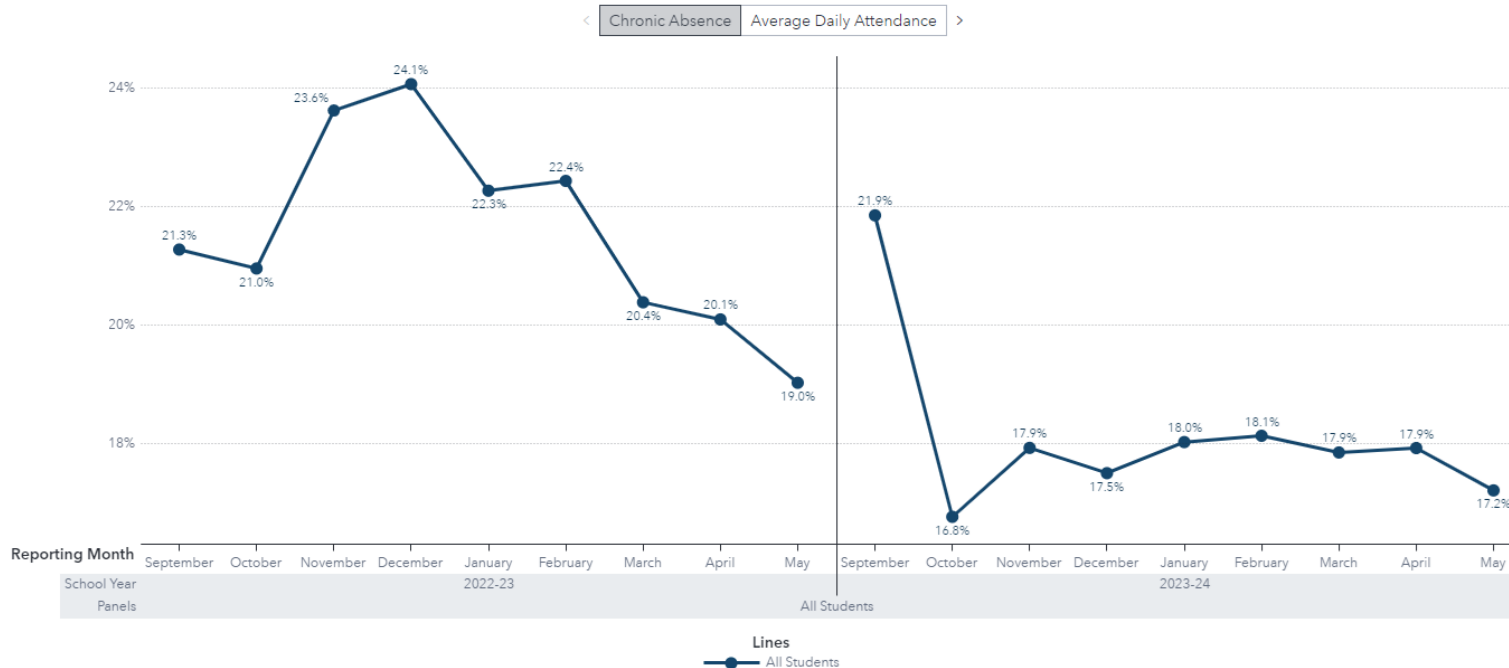


Behind the Numbers: EdSight Secure Attendance Reports



Have you seen the new attendance reports in EdSight Secure? Do you want to learn more about how these new reports enhance access to important data?

[REGISTER](#) for this webinar hosted by the Performance Office on November 14, 2024, at 1 PM





School-Based Mentoring Initiative

The Connecticut State Department of Education is partnering with the Governor's Prevention Partnership on an initiative to strengthen school-based mentoring to support disengaged students, students who are chronically absent, or impacted by substance use, and community violence.

This initiative includes a needs assessment to inform training and technical assistance efforts and identify school districts needs.

- A survey of school superintendents.
- Interviews with school faculty and staff who are interested in launching a school-based mentoring program.



Survey of School Districts about School-based Mentoring



<https://wkf.ms/4gH1VFe>

- To determine school districts that would like to access training and technical on mentoring-related issues.
- Our goal is to have all school districts complete the survey.
- Look for an email from The Governor's Prevention Partnership in your inbox with the link or have the designated person use this link or use the QR code below to complete the survey.
- The survey will be open until November 27th.



Interviews with School Administrators

- The Governor's Prevention Partnership is also conducting interviews with school faculty, administrators, or staff who are interested in starting a new school-based interview in their district.
- Interviews last approximately ½ hour and address school specific needs, challenges, and planning issues.
- If interested, contact:

Aristede Hill, Associate Director

Email: Aristede@gppct.org

Phone: (860) 757-3579



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CONNECTICUT
Education

2024-2025

Student Health and Safety

Chlo-Anne Bobrowski, MSN RN
Education Manager for School Health
and Student Support Services

October 29, 2024

Connecticut State
Department of Education



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Strategies to Stop the Spread Co

Purpose of Parent Survey on Student Attendance

- To understand attitudes and perceptions around attendance in school, and uncover key factors contributing to lower school attendance across Connecticut, CSDE contracted with Odonnell company to conduct a parent survey.

Audience

- CT respondents with children in grades K-12
- The survey links were distributed via contacts from CSDE, EdAdvance, and Odonnell Company
- The survey was open for 2 weeks, 7/25/23 to 8/14/23



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Survey Questions

- Grade(s) of student(s)
- CT county of residence
- Age range
- What are some of the reasons you choose to keep your child(ren) home from school?
- Are you more likely to keep your child(ren) home now after COVID-19?
- Are you more concerned about your child(ren) attending school in-person since COVID-19?
- What are some reasons your child(ren) doesn't want to go to school?
- What could help your child(ren) be at school more often?



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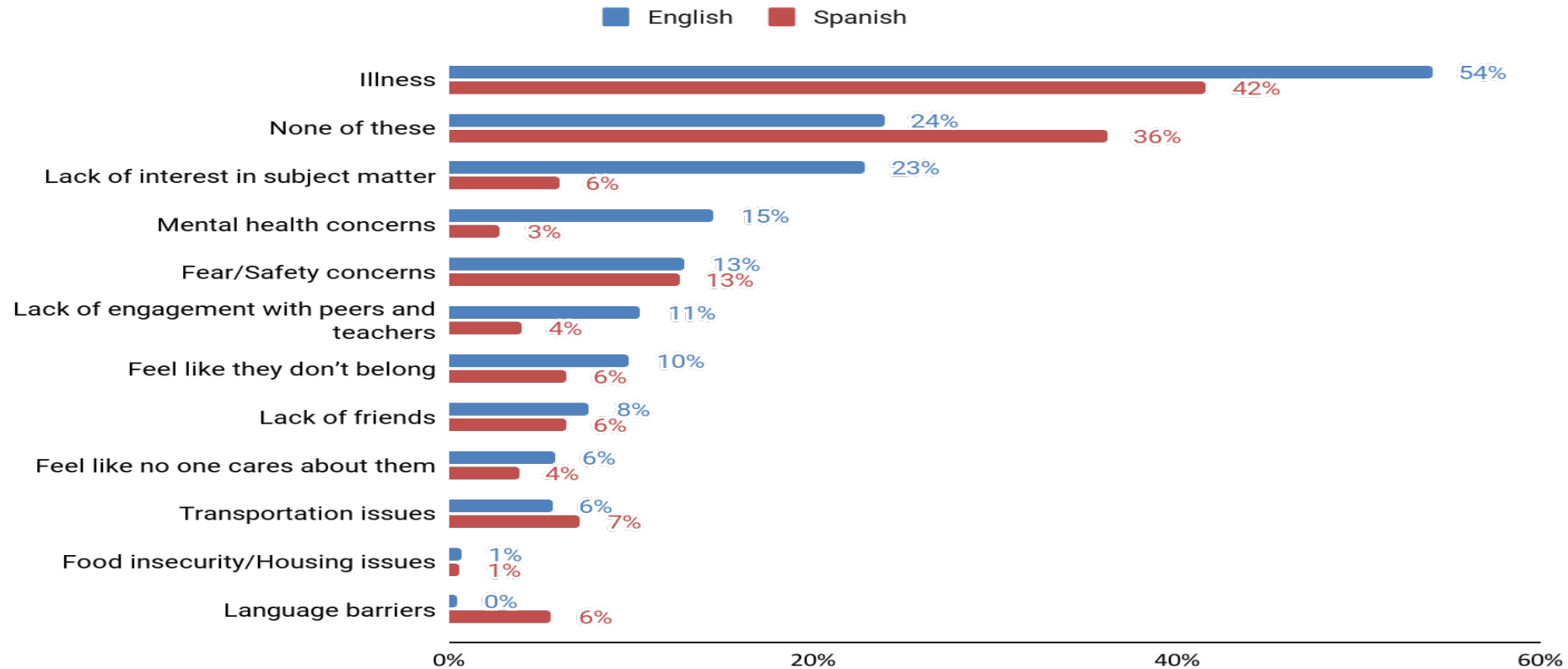
Survey Questions

A total of 5,488 survey responses received from adults with children in grades K-12.

- 4,990 responded to the survey in English
- 498 responded to the survey in Spanish

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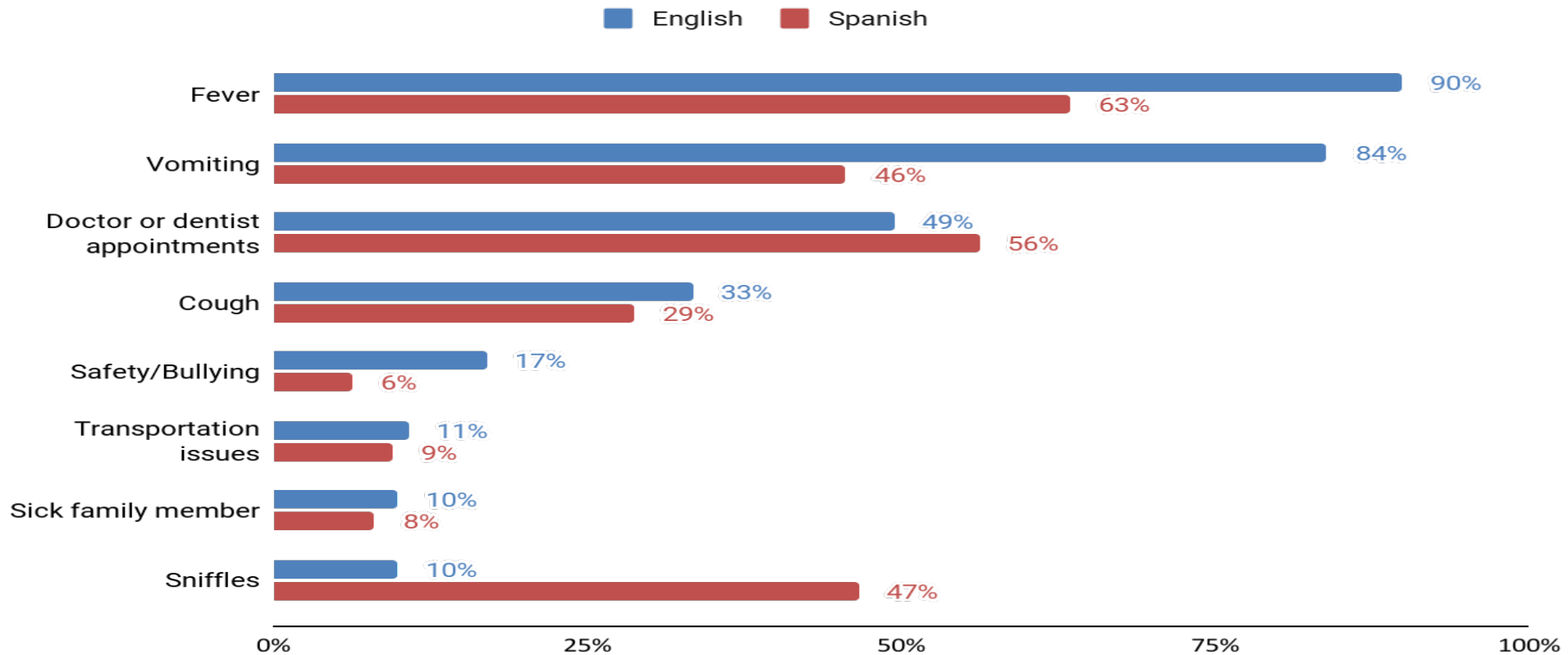
Reasons for Keeping Child(ren) Home from School





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Reasons for Keeping Child(ren) Home from School





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Strategies to Stop the Spread

Schools play a significant role in limiting the spread of upper respiratory viruses like the flu, Covid-19, RSV, and common cold, as they bring large numbers of people together in close contact. Effective prevention measures can reduce transmission and keep students, teachers, and staff healthy.

Here are some strategies schools can implement:



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1. Encourage Vaccinations

- **Vaccination Campaigns:** Promote flu vaccinations and educate parents about their benefits. Post on-line or use Parent Square to share information to parents and families about local health department flu clinics. Flu shots are mandatory for Pre-K students until their 5th birthday.
- **Staff Immunizations:** Encourage teachers and staff to stay up-to-date on relevant vaccinations to help create a healthier school environment.



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2. Promote Hygiene Practices

- **Handwashing Education:** Teach students to wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially before meals and after using the bathroom.
- **Hand Sanitizer Stations:** Install hand sanitizer dispensers at key locations and encourage students to use them if handwashing is unavailable.
- **Respiratory Etiquette:** Remind students to cover coughs and sneezes with their elbow or a tissue and immediately dispose of used tissues.



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3. Improve Indoor Air Quality

- **Ventilation and Filtration:** Increase ventilation by opening windows or using ventilation systems. Schools may consider upgrading HVAC filters or using portable air purifiers, especially in classrooms and shared spaces.
- **Outdoor Activities:** When feasible, hold classes or activities outdoors where air circulation is better, reducing the risk of virus transmission.



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4. Regular Cleaning and Disinfection

- **Disinfect High-Touch Surfaces:** Regularly clean doorknobs, desks, shared electronic devices, and other high-contact surfaces.
- **Shared Item Management:** Limit the sharing of school supplies, books, and other items that students frequently touch, or disinfect these items between uses.



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6. Encourage Staying Home When Sick

- **Symptom Monitoring:** Monitor for symptoms of illness in students and staff. If someone displays symptoms, separate them from others until they can go home.
- **Continue to test for Covid-19-** Districts received letters from the DoE to order free Covid -19 tests .

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When is sick too sick for school?



→ School is better with you, even if you're a little under the weather!



Send me to school if:

- I have a runny nose or just a little cough, but no other symptoms.
- I haven't taken any fever reducing medicine for 24 hours, and I haven't had a fever during that time.
- I haven't thrown up or had any diarrhea for 24 hours.

Keep me at home if:

- I have a temperature higher than 100 degrees even after taking medicine; keep me home until I am fever-free for 24 hours without medicine.
- I'm throwing up or have diarrhea.
- My eyes are pink and crusty.



Call the doctor if:

- I have a temperature higher than 100 degrees for more than two days.
- I've been throwing up or have diarrhea for more than two days.
- I've had the sniffles for more than a week, and I'm not getting better.
- I still have asthma symptoms after using my asthma medicine (and call 911 if I'm having trouble breathing after using an inhaler).

REMINDER! If you think your child may have COVID-19, please test them prior to sending them to school.

¿Cuándo estoy muy enfermo para ir a la escuela?



→ ¡La escuela es mejor contigo, incluso si te sientes un poco mal!



Envíame a la escuela si:

- Tengo la nariz congestionada o un poco de tos, pero sin otros síntomas.
- No he tomado ninguna medicina para la fiebre por 24 horas, y no he tenido fiebre durante ese tiempo.
- No he vomitado o he tenido diarrea por 24 horas.

Manténme en casa si:

- Tengo una temperatura de más de 100 grados, incluso después de tomar medicina; déjame en casa hasta que esté libre de fiebre por 24 horas sin medicina.
- Estoy vomitando y tengo diarrea.
- Mis ojos están rosados y con costras.



Llama al doctor si:

- Tengo una temperatura de más de 100 grados por más de dos días.
- He estado vomitando o con diarrea por más de dos días.
- Tengo resfriado por más de una semana, y no me siento bien.
- Tengo síntomas de asma después de usar medicina para el asma (y llama al 911 si tengo problemas para respirar después de haber usado un inhalador).

RECUERDA: Si piensas que tu niño/a puede tener COVID-19, hazle una prueba antes de enviarlo/a a la escuela.



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6. Masking During Peak Seasons

- **Optional Masking Policies:** Especially during high-transmission times, schools may consider encouraging or allowing the use of masks, especially in crowded or poorly ventilated areas.

Masking During Peak Seasons

• **Optional Masking Policies:** Especially during high-transmission times, schools may consider encouraging or allowing the use of masks, especially in crowded or poorly ventilated areas.

By implementing these steps, schools can help reduce the spread of respiratory viruses, keeping students healthier and reducing disruptions to learning.

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STRATEGIES FOR THE HEALTH OFFICE TO SUPPORT SCHOOL ATTENDANCE



TIER 1 INTERVENTIONS

- All students, staff, parents know and understand the requirements
- Information reviewed and reinforced at back to school night, other opportunities
- Parent education programs regarding positive interventions and school refusal
- Designated monitors of attendance
- Nurse's role is essential

TIER 2 TARGETED

- Home Visits
- Support for Parents Through the Health Office
- Information Sharing Collaborations with Outside Health care Provider/Psych
- Collaboration with Siblings School
- Students Support Team to Develop a Plan
- Meetings with Parents Early in the Process
- School Based Counseling
- Record Review
- Encourage School Connectedness

-
- Involve Medical Advisor
 - Monitor Early Dismissals and Tardies

TIER 3 INTENSIVE

- Family with Service Needs (FWSN) petition or Juvenile Review Board
- Referral to PPT to Consider Special Education or Other Supports
- Modified Day/Flexible Scheduling
- Daily Attendance Monitoring
- Student Plan for Credit Recovery
- Assign a Case Manager

THE NURSE'S ROLE IN ATTENDANCE POLICIES

- As a review:
- Absence one through nine will be excused for any reason that the student's parent or guardian approves. For any absence 10 and above The following guidelines apply
- Student illness (Note: to be deemed excused, an appropriately licensed medical professional INCLUDING THE SCHOOLNURSE, must verify all student illness absences, regardless of the absence's length).
- Student's observance of a religious holiday.
- Death in the student's family or other emergency beyond the control of the student's family.
- Mandated court appearances (additional documentation required).
- The lack of transportation that is normally provided by a district other than the one the student attends (parental documentation is not required for this reason).
- Extraordinary educational opportunities preapproved by district administrators. (Opportunities must meet certain criteria. See below for details). Parent or guardian note and in some cases additional documentation (see details of specific reason). * Note: The total number of days absent includes both excused and unexcused absences.

HEALTH GUIDANCE FOR GOING TO SCHOOL EXCLUSION POLICIES

- Use flexibility and an individualized approach that incorporates your clinical judgement!
 - Update exclusion criteria frequently based on evidenced-based data (AAP, NASN, Attendance Works)
 - Most children with mild symptoms such as a cold or a rash without a fever, can come to school!



Upcoming Attendance & Engagement Meetings

Talk Tuesdays for the 2024-25 School Year

2024-2025

- November 12
- December 10
- January 7
- January 23
- February 4
- March 4
- March 18
- April 1
- April 29
- May 13
- May 27

Register for Talk Tuesdays





Keep in Touch!

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