



February 9, 2024

Dear Prairie Families:

It's the cold and flu season, and some students currently have cases of the stomach flu, COVID-19, influenza, streptococcus, colluscum, hand, foot and mouth, and/or pink eye. Your family is not "the only one" experiencing these illnesses, and Wisconsin has more viral and bacterial infections spreading than normal. The Prairie community needs to work together to keep our school healthy by having students and faculty stay home when they are sick.

A few notes to keep in mind:

In accordance with our [Ill Child Policy](#), any undiagnosed rashes must be evaluated by a healthcare provider before a student returns to school with a note from the provider.

If your child has the stomach flu, they should not return to school until nausea and vomiting has stopped for a full 24 hours.

If your child shows signs of influenza – headache, stomach ache, nausea/vomiting, low grade fever, sore throat, cough and/or nasal congestion – please keep them home.

The COVID-19 virus continues to mutate, becoming more transmissible and less harmful for children and healthy adults with each iteration. Current COVID-19 symptoms observed in school include sore throat, nasal congestion, cough, fever, and/or nausea/vomiting. Some students only have one symptom. Follow our [Ill Child Policy](#) before returning to school, or you can opt to follow CDC recommendations.

If your student is ill, please keep them home. The faculty appreciates that parents do not want their children to get behind on classwork, but sending a sick student to school will likely prolong the illness and only cause more students to be absent. When a student returns from any illness they need to be ready to fully participate in all activities throughout the day.

Sincerely,

Julianne Smith, R.N.
School Nurse