

How we handle illness and communicable disease in the Dieringer School District:

Nurse or health tech will call parent if a student is ill enough to be sent home. Symptoms which require a student be at home are:

- Temperature of 100 degrees or more.
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Severe cough
- Red, swollen eye, especially with discharge or crusting.
- Rash of unknown origin.

We will also call parent if a student sustains more than a minor injury at school or if a student is deemed to be very uncomfortable with other symptoms (stomach ache, sore throat, etc).

Our nurse uses the Infectious Disease Control Guide, published by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Dieringer School District policy to determine when it is necessary to send letters home. In the event of a communicable disease outbreak, the district works closely with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department to determine next steps taken in regard to exclusion of students, family notification, any additional disinfection of surfaces needed, and possible school closures.

All schools are required to report student absences equal or greater than 10%, due to illness, to the health department. The health department will then determine if further steps need to be taken.

The Dieringer School District will use our SchoolMessenger (automated phone calling) system to call all families in the district when information needs to get out quickly, for example, when schools need to close because of a disaster or communicable disease.

To minimize transmission of the flu virus:

- Use a tissue to cover a cough or sneeze, or cough/sneeze into fabric on your arm. If a tissue is used, throw it away and wash your hands.
- Wash hands frequently with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds, especially after using the restroom and before eating. Sing 'The ABC Song' - which lasts 20 seconds.
- Don't touch your eyes, nose, or mouth while out in public. Germs spread this way.
- Get a flu shot (or FluMist if not contraindicated) .
- Stay home when you are sick. Keep your children home when they are sick.