

BSD Illness Management Protocols 2025-26

The School District of Baraboo uses guidance from the CDC, Wisconsin DPI, and local health departments for the health of our community. Per the current guidance, the District will continue to have a layered approach for illness control, as listed below:

Illness Management

- We continue to require that students and staff who meet the DPI illness criteria to stay home.
- Absences related to illness are considered 'excused' for students and do not negatively impact attendance records, unless it goes beyond five (5) days. Students will need a medical note to return after five (5) days, per the [Student Handbook](#).
- We will also continue to follow District policy on illnesses and communicable diseases. [Link for District's Communicable Disease Policy 453.3.](#)

Masking

Masks remain optional in all School District of Baraboo's school buildings. The District has masks if your student needs one. Persons that are exhibiting signs of illness at school may be encouraged to wear a mask while awaiting a ride home to avoid spreading illnesses to others.

It is our expectation that **ALL STUDENTS AND STAFF** will respect whatever choice all other students and staff make about whether or not or when to wear a mask. Any form of harassment related to masking choices will be addressed.

Infection Prevention Measures and Strategies

CDC recommends that all people use core prevention strategies. These are important steps you can take to protect yourself and others:

- Stay up to date with [immunizations](#)
- Practice good [hygiene](#) (practices that improve cleanliness)
- Take [steps for cleaner air](#)
- When you may have a respiratory virus:
 - Use [precautions to prevent spread](#)
 - Seek health care promptly for testing and/or treatment if you have [risk factors for severe illness](#); [treatment](#) may help lower your risk of severe illness.



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
Public Instruction

TOO SICK FOR SCHOOL?



Below are guidelines to help parents and school districts determine when to keep children/students home from school. The recommendations are based on guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state public health professionals. They were developed to help prevent the spread of potentially contagious disease. Home is the best place for a child who is ill. If your child is sick with a diagnosed communicable disease, please notify the school as soon as possible. This notification will greatly assist others who, due to medical reasons and/or treatments, have weakened immune systems and may require immediate and specialized care.



FEVER

With fever greater than 100.4° F*. Student may return when fever-free for **24 hours** (WITHOUT use of fever-reducing medicine).



VOMITING/DIARRHEA

Any unexplained vomiting episode. May return **24 hours** after last episode. Diarrhea = three or more unexplained episodes of watery or loose stool in **24 hours** **OR** sudden onset of loose stools. May return 24 hours after last episode.



COUGH

Serious, sustained coughing, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing.



RASH

Any new rash accompanied by a fever. May return after rash goes away or clearance given by a health care provider.



SKIN LESIONS/SORES

Drainage from a sore that cannot be contained within a bandage **OR** sores are increasing in size **OR** new sores are developing day-to-day.



OTHER

Symptoms that prevent the student from active participation in usual school activities **OR** student is requiring more care than school can safely provide.

* Many authorities use either 100 (37.8 degrees Celsius) or 100.4 F (38.0 degrees Celsius) as a cut-off for fever, but this number actually can range depending on factors such as the method of measurement and the age of the person. CDC has public health recommendations that are based on the presence (or absence) of fever. What is meant by this is that the person's temperature is not elevated beyond their norm. In order to provide clarity the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction supports the use of 100.4°F.