

North Reading Public Schools Vomiting Protocol

Vomiting is described as the ejection of stomach contents through the mouth. Many conditions/illnesses may cause a child to vomit. In a school setting, it must be decided whether vomiting is the result of an illness for which the parent/guardian must be notified and the child dismissed from school. After assessment of the student, it is the decision of the school nurse whether the child should be dismissed. The school nurse will make her/his decision based upon the following management guidelines:

Management Guidelines:

One episode of vomiting does not mean the child must be dismissed from school. Vomiting may be attributed to many factors, including various food-related issues, vigorous exercise, asthma-related symptoms, emotions/anxiety, or medications. The child will be assessed by the school nurse after the first episode of vomiting.

If fever is present, the parent/guardian will be notified for student dismissal. **If fever accompanies vomiting, the child should remain fever-free for 24 hours, without the use of antipyretics such as Tylenol or Motrin before returning to school.**

If the child is afebrile, feels well, and the nurse determines that the vomiting episode is not likely contagious, the child may return to class. If the nurse believes the vomiting episode is resulting from a contagious illness, the parent/guardian will be notified and the student will be dismissed. The student will then be required to remain at home for 24 hours after the last vomiting event.