

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As many of you are aware some of our students have been exposed to the flu as well as a stomach virus. One of the top priorities of Walton County Public Schools is the safety, health, and well being of our students and staff. We appreciate your efforts to work with us to provide a healthy environment for your student. There are many things you can do as a parent to help protect the health of your child at school, such as:

- reminding them to wash their hands often with soap and water,
- teaching them not to share personal items like drinks, food or unwashed utensils,
- and teaching them to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues or their upper sleeve.

Another critical component of a healthy school environment is keeping children home from school if they are sick, especially when they have a fever. Children who are ill should stay home until they are without symptoms for 24 hours. Often times as parents we are hesitant to keep our child home from school because they will miss out on learning but if your child doesn't feel well or is running a low grade fever he/she will not learn effectively and will likely cause other children to get ill. **It is the WCPS procedure that students and staff may not return to school until they have been fever free, without the use of fever reducing medications, for 24 hours. Students who have vomited at home the night before or that morning should not be sent to school until 24 hours have passed without any vomiting.**

We also ask that if you are contacted to come and pick up your child from school because they are ill that you do so promptly. This will help us to limit the exposure that other students and staff members will have to the illness. If you know that there are times when you will be unable to pick up your child in a timely manner, please have a back-up plan in place to ensure that this can be done.

Again, we appreciate your help in maintaining the healthiest learning environment for your child while they are at school.

Thank you.