**TREATMENT GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH STAFF**

**OTITIS EXTERNA**

Authorized health and wellness staff may treat otitis externa as follows:

1. Administer Cortisporin Otic Suspension (hydrocortisone/neomycin/polymyxin), 4 drops in affected ear qid for 10 days, **or** ofloxacin 0.3% otic solution two drops bid for 10 days. (Shake container well before using.)
2. If the tympanic membrane is perforated, administer ofloxacin 0.3% otic solution two drops bid for 10 days. Do not administer Cortisporin Otic Suspension.
3. Avoid water in the ear canals by using ear plugs when showering, shampooing or swimming for 10 days.
4. Offer the student acetaminophen 650-1000 mg every 4 hours [MDD 4 g] **or** ibuprofen 400-600 mg every 6 hours [MDD 2400 mg] as needed for pain.

**WHEN TO REFER TO THE CENTER PHYSICIAN**

* If concern that the student has a perforated tympanic membrane
* If the student’s ear pain or discharge is not resolved with the above treatment or recurs