

WHEN TO KEEP YOUR STUDENT HOME

Deciding when a child is too sick to go to school can be difficult. Please know that good health is more important than a perfect attendance record. In order for your child to be available for learning, and to control communicable diseases in school, it is important to keep your child home for the following reasons:

Fever above 100 degrees - Your child should be fever free, and off of all fever reducing medication for 24 hours before he or she returns to school. *This typically means that a student will need to stay home for at least one full school day after being sent home before returning.* Students returning to school before they are well are more susceptible to illness and may expose others. Please do not give your student medication to a fever and then send him or her to school.

Sore throat or tonsillitis - A minor sore throat is usually not a problem, but a severe sore throat could be a symptom of a more serious illness. Keep your child home from school and contact your health care provider. If your child is diagnosed with Strep Throat, he or she may return to school 24 hours after antibiotic treatment begins.

Spots/Rash - Do not send your child to school with a rash until your health care provider has provided a note stating that it is safe to do so. Children with ringworm, scabies, or impetigo can return to school after 24 hours of appropriate treatment. The affected area should be covered if possible.

Eye Inflammation or Discharge - If your child's eye is red with a cloudy or yellow/green drainage; matted eyelids after sleep; eye pain and/or redness you should keep your child home, and contact your child's healthcare provider. If your child is diagnosed with pink eye, he or she may return to school 24 hours after treatment has begun.

Vomiting and/or Diarrhea - your child should stay home until the illness is over, and for 24 hours after the last episode (without medication).

Ear Pain - Consult your healthcare provider. Untreated ear infections can cause problems with hearing loss.

Head Lice - Students must be treated with a special preparation for killing head lice (available over-the-counter) and progress made on removing all of the nits. Students are cleared by following the guidelines for returning to school - sign the paper sent home stating you have treated the lice.

Acute Pain - Students that have pain and require narcotic medication for relief should not attend school.

Remember to call the school every day that your child will be absent. Make sure the school has your current contact information in case your child becomes ill or injured at school. Have a plan in place for childcare issues for when your child is ill. If your child has a communicable disease, please notify the school. In some instances, it will be necessary for your physician to provide the school with a medical release before your child may return to school.

Medications should be given at home if at all possible. If medication is required during school hours the procedures for medication administration must be followed. The school does not give the first dose of medication.