



General Guidelines for Keeping Children Home Due to Illness

It is sometimes difficult to know when to keep children home due to illness. Below are some general guidelines that will help you make the decision about whether or not to send your child to school. Feel free to contact the school nurse or your health paraprofessional with any questions. There are three main reasons to keep sick children at home:

- The child is too sick to participate in the school day, (such as; overly tired, fussy, won't stop crying, or for an older child, feeling well enough to focus and learn).
- The child needs more care than teacher and staff can give, and still care for other children.
- The illness is on this list and staying home is recommended.

SYMPTOMS	Child must stay Home?
DIARRHEA frequent, loose, or watery stools compared to child's normal stools that are not caused by food or medicine	Yes - if child looks or acts sick; if child has diarrhea with fever and isn't acting normally; if child has diarrhea with vomiting; if child has diarrhea that overflows the diaper or the toilet
FEVER – with behavior change or other illness. Babies younger than 4 months or younger need to see a doctor right away for a fever of 100°F or higher	Yes, when the child also has a rash, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, behavior changes, stiff neck, difficulty breathing, etc.
“FLU-LIKE” SYMPTOMS Fever over 100°F with a cough or sore throat. Other flu symptoms can include tiredness, body aches, vomiting and diarrhea	Yes - for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone, without the use of medicine that reduces the fever
COUGHING	Yes - if severe, uncontrolled coughing or wheezing, rapid or difficulty breathing and medical attention is necessary
Mild RESPIRATORY OR COLD SYMPTOMS	No – may attend if able to take part in school activities. <i>Keep home if symptoms are severe. This includes fever or child is not acting normally and/or has trouble breathing, contact the doctor.</i>
RASH WITH FEVER	Yes – call the doctor. Any rash that spreads quickly, has open weeping wounds, and/or is not healing should be evaluated. NOTE: Rash without fever or behavior changes usually DOES NOT need to stay home from school.
VOMITING Throwing up two or more times in the past 24 hours.	Yes - until vomiting stops or a doctor says it is not contagious. If the child has a recent head injury watch for other signs of illness and for dehydration

Illness	Child must Stay Home?
Chicken Pox	Yes --until the blisters have dried and crusted (usually 6 days).
Conjunctivitis (pink eye) pink color of eye <i>and</i> thick yellow/green discharge	No (bacterial or viral) – children don't need to stay home unless the child has a fever or behavioral changes. Call your doctor for advice and possible treatment.
Croup (see Coughing)	Call your doctor for advice. <u>Note:</u> Your child may be able to go to school unless they are not well enough to take part in usual activities.
Fifth's Disease	No —child is no longer contagious once rash appears.
Hand Foot and Mouth Disease (Coxsackie virus)	No —unless the child has mouth sores, is drooling and isn't able to take part in usual activities.
Head Lice or Scabies	Yes — from END of the school day until after the first treatment.
Hepatitis A	Yes —until 1 week after the illness starts and when your child is able to take part in usual activities.
Herpes	No, unless —your child has open sores that can't be covered or your child is drooling nonstop.
Impetigo	Yes —your child needs to stay home for 24 hours after treatment has started.
Ringworm	Yes — from END of school day until after your child starts treatment. Keep the area covered for the first 2 days.
Roseola	No —unless your child has a fever or behavior changes.
RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus)	No —your child can go to school unless they aren't well enough to take part in usual activities and/or they have trouble breathing. Call your doctor for advice.
Strep Throat	Yes —for 24 hours after starting antibiotics unless the doctor says that it is okay to return to school sooner. Your child also needs to be able to take part in usual activities.
Vaccine Preventable Diseases Measles, Mumps, Rubella (German Measles), Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	Yes —your child can return to school once the doctor says they are no longer contagious.
Yeast Infections including thrush or Candida diaper rash	No —follow good hand washing and hygiene practices.

Medications: All medications administered to students by school staff must have a signed written medical provider's order and signed parent/guardian consent. This includes all over-the-counter and prescription medications.

School personnel will also follow the guidelines contained in: Infectious Disease in School Setting, Guidelines for School Nurses and Personnel, Colorado Department of Health and Environment, most current edition.