

Sick and Illness Guidelines



Students must stay home or will be sent home if:

1. The student does not feel well enough to take part in normal school activities
2. The student needs more care than teachers and staff can give and still care for the other students.
3. The illness is on this list.
4. The school nurse's discretion determines the student should be at home.

Remember the best way to prevent the spread of illness is through good **hand washing**.

SYMPTOMS	MUST STUDENT STAY HOME?
<p>COLD or MILD RESPIRATORY SYMPTOMS</p> <p>Stuffy nose with drainage, sneezing, mild cough.</p>	<p>No - unless symptoms are severe (i.e. fever, student is not acting normally and/or has trouble breathing, or student is unable to take part in normal school activities).</p>
<p>COUGHING</p> <p>Note: Students with asthma may be in school - parents to provide an Asthma Health Care Plan and appropriate medication.</p>	<p>Yes - if severe, uncontrolled coughing or wheezing, or rapid or difficult breathing and medical attention is necessary.</p>
<p>DIARRHEA</p> <p>Frequent, loose, or watery stools compared to student's normal that are not caused by food or medicine.</p>	<p>Yes - if student looks or acts sick, is not acting normally, or has diarrhea along with other symptoms (i.e. abdominal pain, vomiting, fever, etc.). Student must stay home for 24 hours after diarrhea/symptoms resolve without the use of medicine or health care provider verifies student is not contagious.</p>
<p>FEVER</p>	<p>Yes - for temperature of 100.4 F or higher with other symptoms of illness (i.e. rash, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, difficulty breathing, etc.), has behavioral changes, or is unable to take part in normal school activities. Student must stay home for 24 hours after fever/symptoms resolve without the use of medicine.</p>
<p>"FLU-LIKE" SYMPTOMS</p> <p>Temperature of 100.4 or higher with cough, sore throat, tiredness, body aches, vomiting or diarrhea.</p>	<p>Yes - student must stay home for at least 24 hours without the use of medicine that stops fever and other "flu-like" symptoms.</p>
<p>RASH</p> <p>Note: Body rash that has been evaluated by a doctor, is not contagious, has no fever, or has no behavioral changes does not typically need to stay home from school.</p>	<p>Yes - if rash with fever, rash spreads quickly, rash has open weeping wound/lesions, and/or rash is not healing. Student must be evaluated by a health care provider to verify student is not contagious.</p>

VOMITING Note: If a child has had a recent head injury, vomiting can be a sign of concussion - child should be evaluated by a health care provider.	Yes - if vomited two times in the past 24 hours or has other symptoms in addition to vomiting (i.e. fever, diarrhea, abdominal pain, etc.). Student must stay home for 24 hours after resolved without the use of medicine or health care provider verifies student is not contagious.
ILLNESS	MUST CHILD STAY HOME?
CHICKEN POX	Yes - until blisters have dried and crusted (usually 6 days).
CONJUNCTIVITIS (Pink Eye)	No - unless behavioral changes and unable to take part in normal school activities.
CROUP (see Coughing)	Student should be evaluated by a doctor - may not need to stay home unless not well enough to take part in normal school activities.
FIFTH'S DISEASE (Slap Cheek)	No - the student is no longer contagious once rash appears.
HAND FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (Coxsackie Virus)	No - unless the student has mouth sores, is drooling, or is not able to take part in normal school activities.
HEAD LICE or SCABIES	Yes - from end of the school day until after first treatment.
HEPATITIS A	Yes - until 1 week after the start of the illness and when able to take part in normal school activities.
HERPES	No - unless the student has open sores that cannot be covered or is drooling.
IMPETIGO (Staph Skin Infection)	Yes - for 24 hours after starting antibiotics.
RINGWORM	Yes - from end of the school day until after starting treatment. Keep area covered for the first 2 days.
ROSEOLA	Yes - if the student has fever and rash. Student should be evaluated by a doctor for possible treatment.
RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) Note: RSV spreads quickly through classrooms.	No - unless student has acute respiratory symptoms or is unable to take part in normal school activities. Student should be evaluated by a health care provider.
STREP THROAT	Yes - for 24 hours after starting antibiotics and until the student is able to take part in normal school activities.
VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES Measles, Mumps, Rubella (German Measles), Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	Yes - until a doctor says the student is no longer contagious. Note for Pertussis: 5 days after starting antibiotics.
YEAST (Thrush)	No - follow good hand washing and hygiene practices.

- American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education. 2011. Caring for our children: National health and safety performance standards; Guidelines for early care and education programs. 3rd edition. Elk Grove Village, IL.
- American Academy of Pediatrics, *Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and Schools*, 3rd Edition, Elk Grove Village, IL 2013.
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program, *Infectious Disease in Child Care Settings: Guidelines for Schools and Child Care Providers*, Denver, CO, October 2013.
- Children's Hospital Colorado, Illness Policy - How sick is too sick? When to keep your child at home from school or Child Care, November 203.
- General vital sign guidelines for students to be in a school setting, American Heart Association Guidelines-Pediatric Vital Signs, last editorial review 3/10/08.