

When to Keep a Child Home from School

With the school year well underway and with the cooler weather fast approaching, now is a good time to review guidelines of when to keep children home from school due to illness.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF:

- ✓ Your child has had a fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher within the past 24 hours. Children should be free of fever for a continuous 24 hours before returning to school without the use of medications such as ibuprofen (e.g. Motrin, Advil) or acetaminophen (e.g. Tylenol). Temperatures often spike in the late afternoon/evening hours.
- ✓ You know or suspect that your child has a fever or is ill. Delay sending him or her to school until you have had enough time to observe their behavior and feel certain that they are well enough to be in school.
- ✓ Your child has been diagnosed with a contagious illness and has not yet received medication for a minimum of 24 hours, or until your doctor tells you your child is no longer contagious.
- ✓ Your child has received medication for an illness for the required 24 hours, but still has a fever.
- ✓ Your child has vomited the night before or in the morning before going to school.
- ✓ Your child has diarrhea, stomach pain or cramping.
- ✓ Your child has nasal drainage requiring constant wiping and blowing.
- ✓ Your child has frequent coughing throughout the day or night.
- ✓ Your child has any combination of the above symptoms.

Children who come to school sick are not productive learners and are often miserable all day. More importantly, they can spread the illness to classmates and teachers.

Finally, just a reminder to all parents that regular hand washing is one of the best ways to slow or stop the spread of germs in your family. If you have any questions, please call the nurse.

Please continue to report your child's absence each day they are out of school. This needs to be reported to the front office and not just the teacher.