

**Montgomery County Department of Health and Human  
Services School Health Services 401 Hungerford Drive,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Rockville, MD 20850 (240) 777-1550**

## **WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME FROM SCHOOL**

When your child is sick, keep him/her home from school. This not only benefits your child but other children and staff in the classroom at school.

### **WHAT ARE IMPORTANT SIGNS OF ILLNESS?**

Some important signs of illness are:

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| 1. A temperature of more than 100° orally | 8. Earache                                 |
| 2. Nausea or vomiting                     | 9. Thick yellowish discharge from nose     |
| 3. Stomachache                            | 10. Sore throat                            |
| 4. Diarrhea                               | 11. Rash or infection of the skin          |
| 5. Pale or flushed face                   | 12. Red or pink eyes                       |
| 6. Headache                               | 13. Loss of energy or decrease in activity |
| 7. Persistent cough                       |  |

### **WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY CHILD HAS ANY OF THESE SIGNS?**

If your child has any of these symptoms when it is time for school, it is best that he/she stay home. Most childhood illnesses are over soon and no cause for worry. But, if the symptoms are severe or persist for more than 24 hours, you should contact your private source of medical care. Children sometimes use illness as an excuse to miss school. On the other hand, some children force themselves to go to school even though they are sick. There may be times that your child does not show signs of the above-noted symptoms but may be ill. It is up to you to be alert to your child's health and to decide when it is best to send him/her to school.

### **WHEN MAY MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER AN ILLNESS?**

**The Centers for Disease Control recommends that individuals stay home “until at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever** (100 degrees Fahrenheit or 37.8 degrees Celsius) or signs of a fever (chills, feeling very warm, flushed appearance, or sweating) without the use of fever-reducing medicine.” <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/guidance.htm> Generally, your child may return to school when he/she is free of signs of illness. However, there may be times when it is necessary for your child to see your source of medical care before returning to school. Please call your school nurse if you have any questions regarding a specific condition.

## **WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF MY CHILD BECOMES ILL AT SCHOOL?**

If your child complains of being sick or does not look well after he/she reaches school, we will contact you. Therefore, it is important that you provide the school with up-to-date information and phone numbers to call in case it is necessary to contact you.

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