

Gulf Shores City Schools Sick Day Exclusions

Certain symptoms in children may suggest the presence of a communicable disease. Excluding an ill child may decrease the spread of the disease to others in the school settings. The decision to send you child home should he/she becomes sick at school will be made on an individual basis based on the school nurse's professional judgment.

Recommended exclusion varies by the disease or infectious agent. Children with the symptoms listed below should be excluded from the school setting until symptoms improve; or a health care provider has determined that the child can return to the educational setting.

Condition	Common symptoms	Should I keep my child home from school?
Chicken Pox	Mild fever and a rash of red, itchy patches. These turn into fluid-filled blisters before they crust over to form scabs and eventually drop off.	Yes, until all blisters have dried (usually around 5 days)
Colds	Coughing, low-grade fever, a sore throat, sneezing and a congested or runny nose.	No, there is no need to exclude student with a common cold if they seem/feel well and not running fever
Conjunctivitis Viral/Bacterial (Pinkeye)	Redness and swelling of the outer layer of the eye and inside the eyelid. It can also cause sore and watery eyes with discharge.	Yes, until the discharge and signs of infection have cleared and/or completion of 24-hour treatment with ophthalmic solution prescribed by health care provider.
Fever	Elevated temperature of 100.4 or greater	Yes, until fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication before returning to school.
Gastrointestinal	Vomiting or Diarrhea	Keep your child home for 24 hours after last time he or she vomited or had diarrhea unless health care provider indicates that symptoms are not contagious.
Hand, foot, and mouth disease	Fever and tiny blisters on the cheeks and gums, inside the mouth and on the hands and feet.	Yes, until fever free for 24 hours and all blisters have dried
Head Lice	Head lice are tiny insects that bite and cause itching of the skin.	Yes, may return to school after lice treatment and free of nits (eggs) and bugs. Child must be brought to school by parent/guardian and checked by the school nurse before being admitted to class.
Impetigo	Sores and blisters that can become irritable and itchy.	Yes, until they have started antibiotic treatment. Any sores on exposed skin MUST be covered with a bandage or dressing.
Ringworm	Red, itching, scaly circular rash.	Yes, once treatment has started and area must be covered for school attendance
Scabies	Intense itching and sometimes a rash.	Yes, until 24 hours after treatment provided by a health care provider has started.
Skin Wounds	Any wound: abscesses, boils, draining lesions, Staph and MRSA.	Antibiotic treatment (if prescribed) for 24 hours and wounds are covered and no visible drainage.
Strep Throat	Fever, red sore throat, swollen glands.	May return when treated with antibiotics for 24 hours, and fever free for 24 hours.

References:

Alabama Department of Public Health

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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