

WHEN SHOULD YOUR CHILD STAY AT HOME?

The following information serves as a guideline for when to keep your child at home due to illness and should not be used in place of medical advice.

Please communicate with the school office if your child has a communicable disease such as Chicken Pox, Pertussis (Whooping Cough), Hand-Foot-Mouth, or any new specific health condition or allergy.

FEVER 100°F or greater– A fever signals an illness that is probably going to make your child uncomfortable and unable to function well in class. Your child may have a fever in the evening, then be without fever the next morning. If sent to school, the fever may return later in the school day. Please keep your child home until fever-free for 24 hours without the help of fever-reducing medications.

COUGH – If moderate or severe, persistent, coughing spells, needs medication to control, or is severe enough to interfere with learning..

COLD SYMPTOMS - Stay home if sore throat, cough, stomach ache, body aches, headache or exhaustion severe enough to interfere with learning.

SORE THROAT – If your child has a sore throat but no other symptoms, they may go to school. If the sore throat is severe enough to interfere with swallowing or if white spots can be seen in the back of the throat or a fever is present, keep your child at home. Strep throat is a highly contagious condition caused by bacterial infection. Symptoms include sore throat accompanied by fever, pus in the back of the throat, or rash. A child with strep throat should stay at home, medically evaluated and treated with antibiotics. They should receive antibiotics for 24 hours before returning to school.

VOMITING/DIARRHEA: Stay at home at least 24 hours from onset and until able to eat and drink normally. Often children are sent to school after vomiting at night only to vomit at school.

HEADACHE - Keep your child at home if severe enough to interfere with learning. If following a head injury, contact your healthcare provider.

UNDIAGNOSED SKIN RASH/OPEN SORES– A rash may be the first sign of one of many childhood illnesses. If a rash is present, your child should see a healthcare provider to determine if it is safe to be at school.

EARACHE - If moderate to severe ear pain, call your healthcare provider.

PINKEYE – If the whites of the eye(s) are completely red, if yellow or green discharge or crusting that day or morning, or discomfort will interfere with learning, your child should stay home. A health care provider should be seen if there is yellow or green crusting.

ANTIBIOTICS: Children given antibiotics must be on the antibiotics for 24 hours before returning to school. A child is considered no longer contagious once they have been on antibiotics for 24 hours. Pertussis is the exception to this rule, as a child with Pertussis must stay home for the duration of the antibiotics, generally one week. These recommendations do not represent medical advice.