

# When to Keep Your Child Home

## Dear parent or guardian:

Keep your child home from school if they:

- Are too sick to participate in normal activities.
- Need a level of care or observation not manageable at school.
- Create an unhealthy or unsafe environment for others.

## These conditions require you to keep your child home:

<b>Chickenpox (varicella)</b>	Keep your child home until all blisters have scabs and no new blisters are forming.
<b>Diarrhea</b>	Keep your child home until diarrhea can be contained and they can participate in normal activities. Keep your child home if there is blood or mucus in the stool.
<b>Fever</b>	Keep your child home until their temperature is below 100.4°F and they don't have behavior changes, sore throat, rash, vomiting, diarrhea, earache, irritability or confusion.
<b>Flu (influenza)</b>	Keep your child home until they are fever-free for 24 hours.
<b>Measles</b>	Keep your child home until 5 days after rash appeared.
<b>Mumps</b>	Keep your child home until 5 days after swelling began.
<b>Ringworm</b>	Keep your child home until treatment is started.
<b>Scabies</b>	Keep your child home until treatment is started.
<b>Scarlet fever</b>	Keep your child home until they have taken antibiotics for 24 hours and are fever-free.
<b>Shingles</b>	Keep your child home until rash can be covered or all lesions have crusted.
<b>Skin infection</b>	Keep your child home if they have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Draining open wounds that you can't cover with a waterproof dressing.</li><li>• Mouth sores with drooling.</li></ul> May return after symptoms resolve or a healthcare provider evaluates and treats them.
<b>Strep throat</b>	Keep your child home until they have taken antibiotics for 24 hours and are fever-free.
<b>Vomiting</b>	Keep your child home until they have not vomited for 24 hours and they can participate in normal activities.
<b>Whooping cough (pertussis)</b>	Keep your child home until they have taken antibiotics for 5 full days.
<b>Other contagious condition</b>	Check with your child's school or primary care provider.

## These conditions do not require you to keep your child at home (unless they are too sick to participate in normal activities).

- Bronchitis
- Cold (without fever)
- COVID-19\*
- Cytomegalovirus (CMV)
- Ear infection
- Fifth disease
- Hand, foot and mouth disease
- Molluscum contagiosum
- Mononucleosis
- Pinworm
- Pneumonia
- Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)
- Warts

\*Recommend keep your child home from school for 5 days, then wear a mask on days 6–10.

The Health Department, healthcare providers or schools may make exceptions to these requirements on a case-by-case basis.