

Children with the following conditions do not have to be excluded from school, if they feel well enough to participate in regular school activities:

- Bronchitis
- Chronic Hepatitis B
- Colds and coughs, without fever or other signs of illness
- Cold Sores
- Croup
- CMV: Cytomegalovirus
- Ear Infection
- Fifth Disease
- Hand-Foot-and-Mouth Disease
- HIV Infection
- Illnesses from Tick Bites, like Lyme Disease or Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever
- Malaria
- MRSA, if child is only a carrier
- Pinworms
- Pneumonia
- Rash without fever or behavior change
- Red eye without yellow or green discharge, fever or matting
- RSV: Respiratory Syncytial Virus
- Roseola
- Thrush
- Warts, including molluscum contagiosum
- West Nile Virus
- Yeast Diaper Rash

Help your child stay healthy and ready to learn.

We hope that your child never has to miss school because of illness or disease. The best protection from disease is prevention. You can help prevent many illnesses by making sure your child receives immunizations and by making sure your child washes his or her hands often.



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School Exclusion List



1st — 12th Grades

If you think that your child has an illness that can be spread to others, please keep him or her home from school. Contact your doctor or clinic.

Updated August 1, 2012

Dear Parents:

A School Exclusion List indicates for which illnesses a child must be kept out of (excluded from) school. It also indicates when medical notes are needed for children to return to school after certain illnesses. **The information in this brochure applies to students in 1st through 12th grades who are not considered to be Medically Fragile.** If needed, your child's school will give you information on Exclusion Lists for children in 3, 4 or 5 year old Kindergarten, or students in 1st through 12th grades who are Medically Fragile.

If you have any questions about the School Exclusion List, please contact your child's school or your local health department.

When should sick children stay home from school?

If your child feels too sick to go to school, please keep him home.

Children should also stay home if they have symptoms of illnesses that they might be able to spread to others.

Does my child need to stay home when he just has a cold?

Most children with mild colds who have no fever and who feel well enough to go to school do not need to stay home. Most colds spread in the 1-3 days before children show symptoms such as a runny nose or slight cough.

How long will my child need to stay home if she is sick?

The inside of this brochure explains how long children should stay home after they become ill with excludable conditions.

Would my child have to stay out of school if he was not sick?

Sometimes children will also have to stay home from school if they are exposed to some diseases that are preventable by vaccines.

Your school or DHEC will discuss this exclusion with you.

What does my child need to come back to school?

The list inside this brochure shows whether or **Medical Note** or **Parent Note** is required to return to school after exclusion for illness.

What about other activities?

Students with illnesses spread by close contact, like lice, scabies, shingles, or staph or strep skin infections, may not be allowed to participate in some sports or physical education activities.

Questions to Ask When Your Child is Sick:

1. Does your child's illness keep him/her from comfortably taking part in activities?
2. Does your sick child need more care than the staff can give without affecting the health and safety of other children?
3. Could other children get sick from being near your child?

If the answer to any of these questions is "Yes", please keep your child out of school or childcare.

Please keep your child home from school if he or she has one of the conditions or illnesses listed below. Call your child's school to let them know why your child is absent. Send the appropriate note when your child returns to school.

- Chicken Pox / Varicella**
- Children with chicken pox may return with a **Parent Note** once all of the sores and blisters are dried/ scabbed over, or if there are no scabs, until no new sores appear.
- Diarrhea:** For *most kinds* of diarrhea (defined as 3 or more loose stools in 24 hours)...
- ♦ **Students in 1st through 5th grades should stay home** until diarrhea stops, or until a doctor clears the child to return to school. Your child can return with a **Parent Note** when the diarrhea has stopped.
 - ♦ Older children in **6th through 12th grades** with diarrhea do not have to stay home, unless they are spreading illness in the school setting, or have diarrhea with blood or mucus.
 - ♦ Students of any age must have a **Medical Note** to return to school after having diarrhea that contains blood or mucus.
 - ♦ Students who can use the restroom or whose stools are contained in diaper-type underwear do not have to be excluded if the diarrhea is known to be from a non-contagious condition, or if it continues after the child completes antibiotics for a diarrhea-causing illness.
 - ♦ A medically fragile child or child who needs help with toileting may be excluded for fewer than 3 episodes of diarrhea if her condition makes it hard for her caretakers to maintain sanitary conditions in the classroom.

Students of any age are excluded with **Diarrhea from Campylobacter, E. Coli, Giardia, Norovirus, Rotavirus, Salmonella or Shigella:**

A child may return with a medical note:

- ♦ *Campylobacter, Norovirus, Rotavirus, Shigella and most types of Salmonella* : After diarrhea stops.

School Exclusion List: A Quick Reference for Parents

- ♦ *E. coli:* for the most severe type of *E. coli*, students of any age must be out of school until the diarrhea stops and 2 lab tests taken 24 hours apart test negative for *E. coli* O157:H7.
- ♦ *Giardia:* When diarrhea stops or child has taken antibiotics for at least 24 hours.
- ♦ *Salmonella typhi (Typhoid fever):* After 24 hours without diarrhea, if a doctor clears the child to return.

- Fever by itself**
- Keep your child home for a fever 101 degrees or higher by mouth, or 100 degrees or higher if taken under the arm. Your child can return to school with a **Parent Note** when the fever is gone.
- Fever with Rash, Behavior Change or other Symptoms**
- Students with a fever should be out of school if they have signs of severe illness such as a rash, change in behavior, earache, vomiting confusion, sore throat or irritability.
- Flu, Influenza or Influenza-Like Illness (ILI)**
- A student with ILI or the flu will be excluded for a fever of 100 with cough and/or sore throat until he is fever free for at least 24 hours without any fever medicines.
- German Measles / Rubella / 3 Day Measles**
- Keep your child home until 7 days after rash starts. He may return with a **Medical Note**.

- Head Lice**
- Students with crawling lice or with nits (eggs) 1/4 inch or closer to the scalp may be sent home at the end of the day, if head-to-head contact with other children can be avoided. Otherwise, they may be excluded immediately.
- Your child may return with a **Parent Note** after her first treatment with a school-approved lice removal product, if there are no active lice crawling on your child’s head.
- The school should check your child’s scalp for any newly hatched lice 7 days after treatment. If any are present, your child will have to be retreated for lice in order to come back to school.

- Hepatitis A / Yellow Jaundice**
- Children with acute hepatitis A may return with a **Medical Note** 1 week after the start of the jaundice.

- Hib (Haemophilus influenzae Type B)**
- Students with proven Hib infection need to be out of school until at least 24 hours after they complete their antibiotics. A **Medical Note** is required to return.
- Impetigo**
- ♦ If your child has dry, honey-colored crusty sores that cannot be covered, he will be sent home at the end of the school day until 24 hours after starting antibiotics.
 - ♦ If the sores are weepy, oozing or wet or cannot be covered, the student will be sent home immediately. He may return after 24 hours of antibiotics, if the sores have stopped oozing and are starting to get smaller.
 - ♦ A **Medical Note** is needed to return to school.

- Measles / Red Measles / 10 Day Measles**
- Children with measles can return with a **Medical Note** 4 days after the rash begins, if they have no fever and feel well enough to participate in regular school activities.
- Meningitis**
- A student with signs of meningitis (high fever, rash, stiff neck) must remain out of school until a healthcare provider says that the student may return.

- Mononucleosis**
- Children with “mono” can return to school when cleared by a healthcare provider.
- Mumps**
- Children with mumps can return with a **Medical Note** 5 days after the beginning of swelling.

- Pink-eye / Conjunctivitis**
- ♦ Students in **1st through 5th grades** whose eyes are red or pink, and who have eye pain and reddened eyelids, with white or yellow eye discharge or eyelids matted after sleep may have **Purulent Conjunctivitis**. They should not be in school until they have been examined and treated. A **Medical Note** is required to return.
 - ♦ Students in **6th through 12th grades** with Pinkeye do not have to stay home unless there is a recommendation from the health department or the child’s healthcare provider.

- Rash**
- Students who have a rapidly spreading rash or a rash with fever or behavior change are excluded from school immediately. A **Medical Note** is required to return.

- Ringworm**
- ♦ **1st – 5th graders with ringworm of the scalp** must remain out of school until they have begun treatment with a prescription oral antifungal medication. Your child may return with a **Medical Note**.
 - ♦ **1st – 5th graders with ringworm of the body** may return with a **Parent Note** once they have begun oral or topical antifungal treatment, unless the affected area can be completely covered by clothing.
 - ♦ Older students with ringworm of the head or body do not have to remain out of school unless they are spreading illness at school.

- Scabies**
- Children with scabies should be out of school until treatment/medication has been applied. A **Medical Note** is required to return.
- Shingles**
- Keep children home who have shingles lesions/ sores/blisters that cannot be covered. Your child may return with a **Parent Note** once the lesions are dried/scabbed.

- Staph or Strep Skin Infections (includes MRSA)**
- A child with a draining sore, boil, or abscess that cannot be covered, or with sores that ooze through and soak dressings, should remain home. She may return once the draining stops, or if the drainage (oozing) can be contained in the dressing, so that no one else comes into contact with the drainage. Because treatments vary, there is no requirement for numbers of hours on an antibiotic.

- “Strep Throat” / Streptococcal Pharyngitis**
- Your child with “Strep throat” can return to school with a **Medical Note** 24 hours after starting antibiotics if there is no fever.

- Tuberculosis (TB)**
- A child with TB should be kept home until the doctor treating the TB writes a **Medical Note** that says that the child is no longer contagious.

- Whooping Cough / Pertussis**
- Children with whooping cough can return to school with a **Medical Note** after completing 5 days of prescribed antibiotics, unless directed otherwise by DHEC or your school nurse.