



Atlanta Public Schools Guidelines for Keeping Children Home from School Due to Illness

A child who is sick will not be able to perform well in school and risk spreading the illness to other children and staff. We have the following guidelines that will be useful to parents and guardians in determining when their child should stay home from school due to illness.

You should ***NOT*** send your child to school if he/she has the following:

- Fever – If the child’s temperature is 100.3 degrees or higher, the child should remain at home until they are without a fever for a full 24 hours *without taking fever reducing medication.* Remember that a fever is a symptom indicating the presence of an illness.
- Flu – symptoms include abrupt onset of fever, chills, headache and sore muscles. Runny nose, sore throat and cough are common. Your child should remain at home until the symptoms are gone and they are without a fever for a full 24 hours *without taking fever reducing medication.*
- Impetigo – This is a skin rash that turns into fluid filled blisters, which can open and become runny or crusty. Impetigo requires treatment from a doctor. Your child may return to school after taking antibiotic treatment for 24 hours and the rash is no longer draining.
- Pinkeye – The white of the eye appears red, swollen, burns, itches or has pus-like drainage. This requires treatment from a doctor. Your child may return to school after taking antibiotic treatment for 24 hours.
- Strep Throat – The throat appears severely red, swollen or has whitish pus spots. Other symptoms may include, throat soreness, fever, swollen glands of the neck, nausea or vomiting. This requires treatment from a doctor. Your child may return to school after taking antibiotic treatment for **12 hours** and no longer vomiting or feverish *without taking fever reducing medication.*
- Vomiting & Diarrhea – Your child should remain at home until without vomiting, diarrhea or fever for a full 24 hours and *without taking fever reducing medication.*

Our school strongly encourage you monitor your child and ***have your child seen by a doctor if symptoms become worse*** with the following:

- Common cold – irritated throat, watery discharge from the nose or eyes, sneezing, chills and/or general body aches. Keep your child home if symptoms are serious enough to interfere with your child’s ability to learn. Seek care from the doctor if symptoms persist beyond 7-10 days, fever or cough producing phlegm develops, or nasal discharge becomes yellow or green.
- Cough – Cough that interferes with the child’s ability to fully participate in classroom activities. Seek care from the doctor if the cough lasts beyond 7-10 days, or if coughing phlegm.
- Pain – If your child complains or their behavior indicates they are having persistent pain, they should see a doctor before being sent to school.
- Skin Rashes – If your child has a rash of unknown origin, they must be seen by a doctor and start treatment as prescribed before coming to school.

If your child becomes ill at school and the teacher or school nurse feel the child is too sick to benefit from school or is contagious to other children, you will be called to pick them up from school, and recommend take to the doctor for further medical assessment or intervention. It is essential that the school have a phone number where you can be contacted during the day and an emergency number in the event you cannot be reached. Please be sure that arrangements can be made to transport your child home from school and that childcare is available in case of illness. If your daytime or emergency phone number changes during the year, please notify us immediately.

Please call the school nurse if you have any questions or concerns.