

***When should you keep your sick child at home? Sometimes it's a difficult call to make. Keeping sick kids at home helps keep the rest of the student population and their teachers healthy. Here are some considerations for you to follow:***

- **Fever:**
  - Keep your child at home for a temperature 100 degrees or greater. He/she may return to school after 24 hours without a fever.
- **Colds:**
  - Keep your child at home for a bad cough, green nasal drainage and/or fatigue.
- **Diarrhea and/or Vomiting:**
  - Keep your child at home until these symptoms have resolved for 24 hours.
  - If there is still significant stomach discomfort, keep at home until improved.
- **Pink eye:**
  - Pink eye is an infection of the eye causing itchiness, irritation, eye discharge, pus drainage from the eye and swelling. It is highly contagious. If we suspect your child has pink eye, he/she will be sent home.
  - For bacterial pink eye, your child may return to school 24 hours after the first treatment.
  - For viral pink eye, your child may return to school after the eye is no longer pink and draining.
- **Hand-Foot-Mouth Disease:**
  - HFM is a viral disease that is spread through saliva, nasal mucus, blister fluid, feces and contact with contaminated objects and surfaces. Symptoms include ulcers, or sores, inside or around the mouth, and a rash or blisters on the hands, feet, legs, or buttocks. HFM is most contagious during the first week of illness. Your child may return to school after receiving clearance by your healthcare provider or when symptoms have resolved.
- **Scabies:**
  - Scabies is an infestation of the skin by a microscopic mite and is contagious. Symptoms are intense itching, especially at night and a pimple-like itchy rash. Often found on the wrist, elbow, armpit, webbing between the fingers, waist, belt-line and buttocks. May return to school 24 hours after initial treatment depending on severity.
- **Impetigo:**
  - Impetigo is a contagious skin infection that usually shows up around the mouth and nose. It is usually treated with antibiotics. Because it is contagious, keep the sores covered. If they are unable to be covered effectively, then your child may return to school after the sores have scabbed over.
- **Head lice:**
  - Head lice are often spread by head-to-head contact and are not a health hazard or sign of poor hygiene.

- Since children attending preschool and elementary school are most commonly affected, all elementary students will be screened at the beginning of each school year and after Christmas break.
- If your child is found to have lice and/or nits, you will be contacted.
- For information about treatment options, you may contact the school nurse or your healthcare provider.