

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.

Your child should stay home if they have one of the following conditions or illnesses:

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| Chickenpox (varicella) | Keep your child home until all blisters have scabs and no new blisters are forming. |
| Diarrhea | Keep your child home until diarrhea can be contained and stool frequency returns to normal. Keep your child home if there is blood or mucus in the stool. |
| Fever | Keep your child home until their temperature is below 100.4°F for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication) and they don't have behavior changes, sore throat, rash, vomiting, diarrhea, earache, irritability, or confusion. |
| Flu, COVID-19, RSV | Keep your child home until symptoms improve and they are fever-free for 24 hours (without medication). |
| Measles | Keep your child home until 4 days after rash appeared. |
| Mumps | Keep your child home until 5 days after swelling began. |
| Ringworm | Keep your child home until treatment is started. |
| Scabies | Keep your child home until treatment is started. |
| Scarlet fever | Keep your child home until they have taken antibiotics for 24 hours and are fever-free. |
| Shingles | Keep your child home until rash can be covered or all lesions have crusted. |
| Skin infection | Keep your child home if they have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draining open wounds that you can't cover with a waterproof dressing. • Mouth sores with drooling. May return after symptoms resolve or a healthcare provider evaluates and treats them. |
| Strep throat | Keep your child home until they have taken antibiotics for 24 hours and are fever-free. |
| Vomiting | Keep your child home until they have not vomited for 24 hours, and they can participate in normal activities. |
| Whooping cough (pertussis) | Keep your child home until they have taken antibiotics for 5 full days. |
| Other contagious condition | Check with your child's school or healthcare 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).
- Cytomegalovirus (CMV).
- Ear infection.
- Fifth disease.
- Hand, foot, and mouth disease.
- Molluscum contagiosum.
- Mononucleosis.
- Pinkeye (conjunctivitis).
- Pinworm.
- Pneumonia.
- Warts.

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