Akron Children's Hospital

School Health Services
Health Guidelines for School Attendance

Should I keep my child home or send to school?

Do not send your child to school if any of the following symptoms or conditions were present

- **Fever of 100.4 degrees or higher in the last 24 hours.** Call your child's healthcare provider for guidance on when to return to school. Student must be fever free without use of fever reducing medications (acetaminophen/ibuprofen).
- **Positive Coronavirus/COVID-19.** Return to school according to current Ohio Department of Health guidance.
- **Vomiting and/or diarrhea.** If your child has two or more episodes during the previous evening or night, they may not attend school. Call your child's healthcare provider if vomiting and/or diarrhea continues for more than 48 hours, your child has a fever or his/her condition worsens. Diapered children can return to school after diarrhea when stool is contained in the diaper, stool may remain loose.
- **Rash.** Call health care provider for guidance if your child can remain in school.
- **Untreated infected skin patches** that have weeping fluid and are on an exposed surface that cannot be covered with a waterproof dressing. **Preschool** requires exclusion of untreated infected skin patches per preschool regulations.
- **Bacterial infection.** Your child may return to school after taking prescribed antibiotics for 24 hours or health care provider return to school instructions.
- **Pink eye.** If your child has thick mucus or pus draining from the eye (pink eye), call health care provider for guidance if your child can remain in school. If an antibiotic is prescribed, the child must be on the medication for 24 hours before returning to school.
- **Lice.** Contact your school health clinic to school review the school district lice policy.
- **Is currently taking prescribed narcotics.** Students are not permitted to take narcotics while at school. The student can return to school once pain can be controlled by over the counter pain relief, like Tylenol/Acetaminophen or Ibuprofen.
- **Any sick symptoms that prevent participation in school**, examples include:
    - Excessive tiredness, pale, difficult to wake, confused or irritable, lack of appetite
    - Productive coughing, sneezing, continuous coughing
    - Headache, body aches, earache, sore throat

A minor sore throat is usually not a problem, but a severe sore throat could be strep throat even if there is no fever. Other symptoms of strep throat in children are headache and stomach upset. Contact your healthcare provider as your child needs a special test to determine if it is strep throat. Colds can be contagious for at least 48 hours. Returning to school too soon may slow the recovery process and expose others unnecessarily to illness.

If you are unsure about whether to send your child to school, please contact the school health clinic staff.

Norton, A., Haig, S., Connelly, A., Keith, J., & Montgomery, M. (2025, July 3). *Emergency and Health Guidelines for Schools, 4th Edition*. Ohio Department of Health. Retrieved July 29, 2025, from https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/effd947b-beb8-4ea1-a0ba-d70ab59556ab/Emergency+and+Health+Guidelines+for+Schools.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT_TO=url&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE.Z18_79GCH8013HMOA06A2E16IV2082-effd947b-beb8-4ea1-a0ba-d70ab59556ab-pvcrOZF