

WHEN SHOULD MY CHILD STAY HOME FROM SCHOOL?

This is a common question asked by parents. The following information is a list of guidelines you may use to determine if your child should stay home from school. *Remember that these are guidelines only.* Sending a child to school with symptoms of communicable disease puts other children and staff members at risk of becoming ill. This information is offered so that we may improve the general health of all members of our school community.

- Appearance, Behavior:** If your child is unusually tired, pale or lacks appetite, these may be precursors to illness. These are sufficient reasons to keep your child at home.
- Eyes:** If your child exhibits any redness, burning, itching, and/or drainage from the eye, this may be a sign of conjunctivitis (pink eye), a contagious illness. Please keep your child at home and see your healthcare provider.
- Fever:** If your child has a temperature greater than 100 degrees, he/she should be kept home. A child should be free of fever for at least 24 hours (without tylenol or ibuprofen) before returning to school.
- Nasal Discharge/Cough:** A child exhibiting these symptoms should be seen by your healthcare provider. These conditions may be contagious and require treatment.
- Sore Throat:** A child with a sore throat, fever and/or swollen glands should remain home. Contact your healthcare provider.
- Diarrhea:** A child who experiences 2 or more watery stools in a 24 hour period, especially if combined with poor appearance or nausea should remain home.
- Vomiting:** A child who has vomited 2 or more times in a 24 hour period should remain at home.
- Rash:** If your child exhibits a body rash, especially with fever or itching, he/she should remain at home and be assessed by your healthcare provider. Any child with a suspicious rash will be sent home and will need to have verification from a health care provider that the rash is not contagious. Heat rashes and allergic reactions are not contagious. These children may attend school.
- Earache *without* Fever:** A child does **NOT** need to be excluded from school, but should be evaluated by your healthcare provider.
- Lice:** A child infected may not return to school until they have been treated and are free of lice and nits.