

When to Keep a Sick Child Home from School

When a child becomes sick, a determination must be made whether the child should be kept home from school. Staying home when sick is an important way to help prevent the spread of germs that cause illnesses.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that your child be kept home if he/she is not able to take part in normal school activities, the illness causes an unsafe or unhealthy place for others at school, or when the child requires care that cannot be managed at school.

Please review the following illness guidelines. If you are not sure if it is okay for your child to be at school, please contact your medical provider or the school nurse for guidance.

Symptoms	When can my child return to school?
Fever A fever of 100° F or higher is considered a fever.	A child with a fever should not come to school until they have been fever free (below 100° F) for 24 hours, without the help of fever reducing medication. Having a fever means you are contagious and can spread illness to others.
Vomiting Throwing up 2 or more times in 24 hours.	The child can return to school if they have not vomited in 24 hours and are fever free.
Diarrhea Frequent, loose or water stools that are not caused by food or medicine.	Children with diarrhea should remain home until they are symptom free for 24 hours or if you have a note from the medical provider stating it is not contagious.
Strep Throat	Students can return to school after they have been on an antibiotic for 24 hours.
Rash	A student with a suspicious rash may need to be evaluated by a medical provider. A note stating the student is not contagious will be required. Please contact the school nurse for recommendations.
Pinkeye Redness of eye, swelling of lid and thick yellow/green discharge.	Students diagnosed with pinkeye can return to school after being on antibiotic drops for 24 hours or with a note from the medical provider stating they are cleared to return to school.
Impetigo	Do not return to school for 24 hours after starting antibiotic. Sores should be covered if possible.

If your child requires prescription medication during school, you will need to have the medical provider complete the medication authorization form. Medications will not be administered until the signed form has been received. Please send medications in the original labeled pharmacy container.

Over the counter medications require written permission from the parent only. They must be appropriate for the child's weight/age, in the original packaging and not expired.