



When Should a Child be Kept Home or Sent Home From School for Illness?

1. Fever: A child has a temperature of 100 F taken by mouth or 99 F taken under the arm. The child should not return until 24 hours of no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications.
2. Diarrhea: A child has two loose or watery stools, even if there are no other signs of illness. The child should have no loose stools for 24 hours prior to returning to school. Exception: A healthcare provider has determined it is not infectious. Diarrhea may be caused by antibiotics or new foods a child has eaten. Discuss with a healthcare provider to find out if this is the likely cause.
3. Vomiting: A child that is vomiting. The child should have no vomiting episodes for 24 hours prior to returning to school. Exception: A healthcare provider has determined it is not infectious.
4. Rash: The child develops a rash and has a fever or a change in behavior. Exclude until the rash subsides or until a healthcare provider has determined it is not infectious. For students with a diagnosed rash, please refer to the chart below for exclusions and required clearance criteria.
5. Certain communicable diseases: Children and staff diagnosed with certain communicable diseases may have to be excluded for a certain period of time. Check the following link for information: <https://www.co.jackson.mi.us/342/Public-Health-Fact-Sheets>
6. Injury: Whenever an injury is serious enough to seek a health care provider's attention, a parent should be contacted to take the child home.

Encourage caregivers and parents to take the following preventive actions when their children are sick:

- Stay home when you are sick and avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Use a paper towel to turn off faucets and open bathroom doors and then dispose paper towel in the wastebasket.
- Extracurricular activities also need to be curtailed when a student has a communicable disease.

This fact sheet is for information only and is not meant to be used for self-diagnosis or as a substitute for consultation with a health care provider. For more information contact your health care provider or visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov.