



GUIDELINES FOR KEEPING AN ILL STUDENT HOME FROM SCHOOL

It is not always easy to know when to send your child to school, and when to keep your child home. These guidelines are based on public health recommendations.

Please **do not** send a child with the following symptoms to school:

- **Fever of 100.5°F (38°C) or more.** If your child has a fever of 100.5°F (38°C) or more they will be sent home. Your child may return to school when their temperature has returned to a normal range, less than 100.5°F (38°C).
- **Common cold-** A cold should not last longer than 5-7 days. If severe congestion lasts longer than 7 days you should contact your child's doctor.
- **Cough and difficulty breathing-** If your child has labored breathing (heaving of chest muscles with each breath), rapid breathing at rest, or wheezing, you should contact your child's doctor.
- **Pertussis (whooping cough)** must be treated with antibiotics and your child cannot return to school until treatment is completed.
- **Vomiting and diarrhea** make children very uncomfortable. If your child has an episode of vomiting or diarrhea at school they must go home. Your child should stay home until the illness passes.
- **Rash that is undiagnosed,** especially when there is a fever and behavioral change.
- **Impetigo-** Keep the child home for 24 hours after starting antibiotic treatment.
- **Ringworm (a contagious skin fungus infection)-** Keep home until treatment is started. If it is in an exposed area, it must be covered with a bandage or clothing when child returns to school. Ringworm on the scalp may require an oral medication; you should contact your child's doctor.
- **Cold sores-** Cold sores can be passed from one person to another, but only through direct contact. Children who drool or place toys in their mouths when they have cold sores should stay home; other children may come to school.
- **Chicken pox-** Keep your child home until all blisters are scabbed over and there are no signs of illness.

Antibiotics

Children who are placed on antibiotics for impetigo, strep throat, or any other bacterial infection, should be on them for a **FULL 24 hours** before returning to school. This will help prevent the spread of infection. If at any time you are unsure if your child's illness is contagious, please ask your child's doctor. If possible provide the school with a doctor's note stating when your child may return to school.

Please keep the office at your child's school informed of your current contact numbers. It is very important to be able to reach you when your child is sick at school and needs to go home or when your child needs medical attention.