

When should your child stay home from school?

Many parents are confused about when to keep children who are ill at home. The following guidelines can help with your decision. Any time you have questions, please consult your doctor or the School Nurse.

1. **Fever:** Your child should stay home if he/she has a fever of 100 degrees or more and should remain at home until the temperature returns to normal.
2. **Vomiting or diarrhea:** Your child should stay home if he/she has vomited or has diarrhea more than once within 12 hours prior to the start of school.
3. **Pinkeye:** Conjunctivitis is very contagious. If the white of your child's eye is red and has any type of drainage, you should keep your child at home until he/she is cleared by your physician to return.
4. **Head Lice:** Children with lice cannot come to school until all lice and nits (eggs) have been removed from their hair. Please contact your School Nurse if you need information about removing lice from your child's hair. All students with lice must be checked by the School Nurse for readmittance.
5. **Chickenpox:** Students with chickenpox are contagious until all blisters have scabbed over and are dry.
6. **Impetigo:** Impetigo is a skin infection that causes a blistering rash of infected sores and is highly contagious. The sores can drain and become yellow and crusty. The infection must be treated for 24 hours before the child may return to school. If the rash is not dry and crusted the sores must be covered while your child is in school.
7. **Strep Throat:** If your child has been diagnosed by a doctor with strep throat they should stay home until 24 full hours of antibiotic therapy. Your child should be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.
8. **Cough:** A cough that is loud and continuous is distracting in a classroom and the child may be very contagious to others. Any cough that produces unusual discharge or chest pain should be checked by the doctor.

See the following link to these and other childhood illnesses

<http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/infections/index.html>

Please call your child's doctor or the school nurse with any questions.