

## Should I keep my child home or send him or her to school?

**Do not send your child to school** if any of the following symptoms or conditions were present in the last 24 hours. You may be asked to take your child home if your child:

- **Has a fever of 100 degrees or higher.** Your child may return to school when the temperature has been normal (98.6) for 24 hours.
- **Has been vomiting.** If your child has two or more episodes during the previous evening or night they may not attend school. If it is caused by a condition that is not contagious and the student is able to remain hydrated and participate in school activities, the child may attend school.
- **Diarrhea/loose stool** 2 or more loose stools above normal for student; contain blood or mucus. Medical evaluation required for stools with blood or mucus. Readmission after diarrhea can occur when the following conditions are met:
  - Diapered children must have their stool contained by the diaper, even if the stool remains loose.
  - Toilet trained children do not have toileting accidents.
- **Has rash.** Rash with fever. May return to school after medical evaluation has determined not to be communicable.
- **Untreated infected skin patches** that have weeping fluid and are on an exposed surface that cannot be covered with a waterproof dressing. **PRESCHOOL** requires exclusion of untreated infected skin patches per preschool regulations.
- **Has bacterial infection.** Your child may return to school after taking prescribed antibiotics for 24 hours.
- **Has pink eye.** Purulent drainage from the eye(s) does not improve when any discharge that is present is wiped from the eye(s). If the child complains of eye pain with redness, child should see a health care provider. If an antibiotic is prescribed, the child must be on the medication for 24 hours before returning to school.
- **Has live lice.** Please check with your school health clinic about the school district lice policy.
- **Scabies** or other parasitic infection.
- **Has been prescribed narcotics and is currently taking them.** Students are not permitted to take narcotics while at school. The student should return to school once their pain can be controlled by Acetaminophen or Ibuprofen.
- **Has symptoms** that prevent him or her from participating in school, such as:
  - Excessive tiredness, pale, difficult to wake, confused or irritable, lack of appetite
  - Productive coughing, sneezing
  - Continuous coughing
  - Headache, body aches, earache
  - Sore throat

A minor sore throat is usually not a problem, but a severe sore throat could be strep throat even if there is no fever. Other symptoms of strep throat in children are headache and stomach upset. Contact your pediatrician as your child needs a special test to determine if it is strep throat.

Keep your child home until his or her fever has been gone for 24 hours without medication. Colds can be contagious for at least 48 hours. Returning to school too soon may slow the recovery process and expose others unnecessarily to illness.

**If you are unsure about whether or not to send your child to school, please contact the school health clinic staff with any questions you may have.**