



General Guidelines for Keeping Children Home Due to Illness

It is sometimes difficult to know when to keep children home due to illness. Below are some general guidelines that will help you make the decision about whether or not to send your child to school. Feel free to contact the school nurse or your health paraprofessional with any questions. There are three main reasons to keep sick children at home:

- The child is too sick to participate in the school day.
- The child needs more care than teacher and staff can give, and still care for other children.
- The illness is on this list and staying home is recommended.

SYMPTOMS	Child must be at Home?
DIARRHEA frequent, loose, or watery stools compared to child's normal ones that are not caused by food or medicine	Yes - if child looks or acts sick; if child has diarrhea with fever and isn't acting normally; if child has diarrhea with vomiting; if child has diarrhea that overflows the diaper or the toilet
FEVER over 100°F with behavior change or other illness	Yes, when the child also has a rash, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, behavior changes, stiff neck, difficulty breathing, etc.
"FLU-LIKE" SYMPTOMS Fever over 100°F with a cough or sore throat. Other flu symptoms can include tiredness, body aches, vomiting and diarrhea	Yes - for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone, without the use of medicine that reduces the fever
COUGHING	Yes - if severe, uncontrolled coughing or wheezing, rapid or difficulty breathing and medical attention is necessary
VOMITING Throwing up two or more times in the past 24 hours.	Yes - until vomiting stops or a doctor says it is not contagious. If the child has a recent head injury watch for other signs of illness and for dehydration

If your child is being treated with antibiotics for the treatment of routine illness such as strep throat or impetigo, he or she may return to school 24 hours after taking the first dose of antibiotics.

Medications: All medications administered to students by school staff must have a signed written medical provider's order and signed parent/guardian consent. This includes all over-the-counter and prescription medications.

School personnel will follow the guidelines contained in: Infectious Disease in School Setting, Guidelines for School Nurses and Personnel, Colorado Department of Health and Environment, most current edition.