

Sick Children...Send to School or Keep Home?

Deciding when a child is too sick to go to school can be a difficult decision for parents to make. When trying to decide, use the guidelines below to help you.

Stay at Home: If your child has any of the following symptoms, please keep your child at home.

- **APPEARANCE, BEHAVIOR**-unusually tired, pale, lack of appetite, difficult to wake, confused or irritable. This is sufficient reason to exclude a child from school.
- **EYES**-thick mucus or pus draining from the eye or pink eye. With pink eye (conjunctivitis) you may see a white or yellow discharge, matted eyelids after sleep, eye pain and/or redness.
- **FEVER**-temperature of 99.6 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. Remember that a child must be fever free **without fever reducing medication** for 24 hours before returning to school.
- **GREENISH NOSE DISCHARGE AND/OR CHRONIC COUGH**-should be seen by a health care provider. These conditions may be contagious and require treatment.
- **SORE THROAT**-especially with a fever or swollen glands in the neck. (With strep throat, the child may return to school after 24 hours on antibiotics.)
- **DIARRHEA**-three or more watery stools in a 24 hr. period, especially if the child acts or looks ill.
- **VOMITING**-vomiting two or more times within the past 24 hours.
- **RASH**-body rash, especially with a fever or itching. Heat rashes and allergic reactions are not contagious.
- **EAR INFECTIONS WITHOUT FEVER**- do not need to be excluded, but the child needs to get medical treatment and follow-up.
- **LICE, SCABIES**-children may not return to school until they have been treated and are free of lice and nits (eggs).
- **CHICKEN POX**-children must stay home for 5 days after the onset of blisters, or until all pox are scabbed over and dry.

IF YOUR CHILD SHOWS ANY OF THE SYMPTOMS LISTED ABOVE WHILE THEY ARE AT SCHOOL, IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR US TO SEND HIM/HER HOME. While we regret any inconvenience this may cause, as custodians of our community's health it is our duty to send sick children home. Having a child at school with any of the symptoms listed below puts other children and staff at risk.