

Your child should stay home sick from school if they have these symptoms:



- **Respiratory illness** (cough, runny nose or sore throat with a fever).
- **Signs of severe illness** such as being unresponsive, irritable, crying more than usual, is having difficulty breathing, or has a quickly spreading rash.
- **Fever** (temperature above 101°F [38.3°C] by any method) and a change in behavior or other signs and symptoms (such as a sore throat, rash, vomiting or diarrhea).
- **Diarrhea**, defined as having more frequent and loose stool (poop) than usual that's not caused by a change in diet.
- **Vomiting 2 or more times in the previous 24 hours.** The exception is if the vomiting is found to be caused by a non-infectious condition, and the child is not in danger of dehydration.
- **Abdominal pain that continues for more than 2 hours**, or abdominal pain that comes and goes, along with fever or other concerning symptoms.
- **Mouth sores with drooling that the child cannot control**, unless their doctor or local health department authority states that the child is noninfectious.
- **Rash with fever or behavioral changes**, until a primary care provider determines that the illness is not a communicable disease. If your child has a new, rapidly spreading rash that resembles bruising or small red or purple "blood spots," call 911.
- **Skin sores that are weeping fluid** located on an exposed part of the body that cannot be covered with a waterproof bandage.
- **Streptococcal pharyngitis** (such as strep throat or other streptococcal infection), until at least the first 12 hours after antibiotic treatment has started.
- **Head lice, scabies and ringworm** until after the first treatment. School exclusion is not necessary before the end of the program day. When treatment starts between the end of the program day and beginning of the next day, no exclusion is needed.
- **Chickenpox (varicella)** until all lesions have dried or crusted (usually 6 days after onset of rash) and no new lesions have showed for at least 24 hours.
- **Hepatitis A** virus infection, until 1 week after onset of illness or jaundice or as directed by the health department.

When it's OK to stay at school:



- **Coughs or colds** without fever or other signs of illness.
- **Runny noses** (regardless of color or consistency of nasal discharge).
- **Yellow, green, white, or watery eye discharge without fever**, even if the whites of the eyes are red (pinkeye).
- **Ear infection**, unless the child has a change in behavior or cannot participate as usual.
- **Rash without fever and without behavioral changes.** The exception would be a child with a new, rapidly spreading rash that resembles bruising or small red or purple 'blood spots.' In that case Emergency Medical Services (911) should be called.
- **Thrush.**
- **Fifth disease.**
- **All staphylococcal infections.** This includes Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) carriers or children with colonization of MRSA but without an illness that would otherwise require exclusion.
- **Molluscum contagiosum (wart).**
- **Hand-Foot-and-Mouth disease.** No exclusion is needed unless the child has mouth sores with constant drooling or has other symptoms like fever. In some cases, the local health department may require children with hand-foot-mouth disease to stay home to control an outbreak.

