

WHEN SHOULD MY CHILD STAY HOME SICK FROM SCHOOL?

To assist in maintaining a healthy learning environment and in accordance with Pennsylvania Code Chapter 27, Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases, your child should not come to school with the following symptoms:

- **FEVER** – temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.
- **EYES** – thick mucus or pus draining from the eye or pink eye (conjunctivitis).
- **HEADACHE** – severe with or without vomiting and/or fever.
- **CHRONIC COUGH** – productive or non-productive and if cough has kept your child up during the night and/or if they have a fever.
- **SEVERE ABDOMINAL PAIN** – with or without vomiting and/or fever. Seek medical attention.
- **SORE THROAT** – especially with fever or swollen glands; if child is diagnosed with strep throat, they must be on an antibiotic for 24 hours prior to returning to school.
- **DIARRHEA** – 3 or more watery stools in a 24 hour period, especially if the child acts or looks ill.
- **VOMITING** – vomiting 2 or more times within the past 24 hours.
- **RASH** – with fever, itching, or behavioral change. Heat rashes and allergic reactions are not contagious.
- **MOUTH SORES** – associated with the inability to control saliva.
- **EAR INFECTIONS WITHOUT FEVER** – do not need to be excluded, but the child needs to seek medical treatment.
- **SCABIES** – may return to school after completion of appropriate treatment.
- **RINGWORM** – may return to school immediately after the first treatment, if body lesions are covered. Neither scalp nor body lesions that are dried need to be covered.
- **HEAD LICE** – may return to school immediately after the first treatment with re-examination by school nurse seven (7) days post treatment. Visit www.cdc.gov/lice/head for more information.
- **CHICKENPOX** – may return to school five (5) days from the appearance of the first crop of vesicles, or when all the lesions have dried and crusted, whichever is sooner.
- **PAIN** – that stops your child from doing activities of daily living. Do not send your child to school while they are taking prescription narcotics/pain medication for an injury/illness unless otherwise directed.
- **UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR, LETHARGY, CONFUSION, IRRITABILITY, DIFFICULTY BREATHING** or other signs of serious illness are sufficient reasons to exclude a child from school and seek medical attention.

If your child is sent home ill from school, they must be without fever, vomiting, or diarrhea for 24 hours without medication before returning to school.

Typically, a mild cold is not a good reason to stay home from school. Females with menstrual cramps are offered heating pads in school and may take medication if the appropriate paperwork is on file. If menstrual cramps are so severe that your child cannot attend school, they should be seen by a health care provider. Feeling tired is not a good reason to stay home from school or be sent home from school unless there are measurable signs of illness.