

## When to Keep Your Child Home From School

Deciding when a child is too sick to go to school can be difficult. In order for your child to be available for learning, and to control communicable diseases in school, it is important to keep your child home for the following reasons:

- **Fever 99.9 degrees and above-** Your child should be fever free, and off of all fever reducing medication for 24 hours before he or she returns to school. Students returning to school before they are well are more susceptible to illness and may expose others. Please do not give your child medication to treat a fever and then send them to school.
- **Sore throat or tonsillitis-** A minor sore throat is usually not a problem, but a severe sore throat could be a symptom of a more serious illness. Keep your child home from school and contact your health care provider. If your child is diagnosed with strep throat, he or she may return to school 24 hours after antibiotic treatment begins.
- **Spots/Rash-** Do not send your child to school with a rash until your healthcare provider has said it is safe to do so. Children with ringworm, scabies, or impetigo can return to school after 24 hours of appropriate treatment. The affected area should be covered if possible.
- **Bad Cough/Cold Symptoms-** Children with bad coughs/colds need to stay home, and possibly see their health care provider. When the cough improves and their child is feeling better they may return to school.
- **Eye Inflammation or Discharge-** If your child's eye is red with a cloudy or yellow/green drainage; matted eyelids after sleep; eye pain and/or redness; you should keep your child home, and contact your child's health care provider. If pink eye is suspected at school. Your child will be sent home.
- **Vomiting and/or Diarrhea-** Your child should stay home until the illness is over and for at least 24 hours after the last episode (without medication).
- **Ear Pain-** Consult your health care provider. Untreated ear infections can cause problems with hearing loss.
- **Head lice-** Students must be treated with a special preparation for killing head lice (available over-the-counter) and progress made on removing all of the nits. Lone Star School has a no nit policy. Students with lice or nits will be sent home from school and cannot return until completely free of all lice/nits.
- **Acute Pain-** Students that have pain that requires narcotic medication for relief should not attend school.
- **Chicken Pox-** Children with uncomplicated chicken pox may return on the sixth day after the onset of the rash or when the spots are all dried and crusted, whichever is longer.
- **Fifth Disease-** By the time the rash appears, children are no longer contagious and do not need to stay at home.
- **Mumps-** Students with mumps should stay home from school for a total of five days after the symptoms begin.

- **Poison Ivy-** Poison ivy is not contagious, so students do not need to stay home. Open lesions should be covered when students come to school.
- **Ringworm-** Students may come to school as long as the area is being treated and remains covered when at school. The nurse may require proof of treatment be brought to school.
- **Strep Throat-** Students may return to school 24 hours after treatment has started and when fever is no longer present.

**Your child may attend school if he or she has:**

- **Mild Cold Symptoms-** If your child feels well, and there is no fever, it is usually OK to send your child to school.
  - **Allergic Conjunctivitis-** Known allergy diagnosed by physician.
    - **Vague Complaints of Aches, Pains or Fatigue**
      - **Diagnosed Skin Condition**

Remember to call the school every day that your child will be absent. Make sure the school has your current information in case your child was to become ill or injured at school. Have a plan in place for childcare issues for when your child is ill. If your child has a communicable disease, please notify the school. In some instances it will be necessary for your physician to provide the school with a medical release before your child may return to school. Medications should be given at home if at all possible. If a medication is required during school hours the procedures for medication administration must be followed.