

## When to Keep Children Home

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It’s important for children to attend school, but when a child is truly sick, they need to stay home in the care of an adult to get well and to prevent the spreading of illness to others.  
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The following information compiled by the Centers for Disease Control; DHSS may be helpful with making the decision of sending your child to school or keeping them at home due to an illness.

**Cough:** If a child has a deep or uncontrollable cough even if without fever they should stay home.

**Diarrhea/Vomiting:** Children who have vomited or have diarrhea will be sent home and may return to school after symptom free for 24 hours.

**Earache:** Should stay home until pain free. May be advised to consult medical provider.

**Fever:** Any child with 100-degree Fahrenheit temperature or higher will be sent home and may return to school when fever-free without fever-reducing medication for 24 hours.

A child with flu-like illness such as (fever and cough) must stay home from school until fever-free without fever-reducing medication for 24 hours.

**Significant Headache:** Should stay home until feeling better and can participate in class.

**Impetigo:** Students may attend school if drainage can be effectively kept covered and is not extensive. Symptoms should be evaluated by a medical provider.

**Pink Eye:** If the eye or eyes appear very red, feels irritated, and mucous drainage, the student should be kept home until evaluated by a medical provider or has cleared.

**Rashes:** Do not send a child with a rash to school until a medical provider has said it is safe to do so – especially with additional symptoms like itching, fever or appearing ill.

**Sore Throat:** If mild, no fever and otherwise feeling well, children may be fine to attend school. Keep the child home if severe with white spots in the back of the throat, headache, and upset stomach with or without fever.

**Strep Throat:** A child diagnosed with strep throat is no longer infectious and can return to school 24 hours after antibiotic treatment has been started.

**Stomach Pain:** Consult a medical provider and do not send a child to school with a stomachache that is persistent or severe enough to limit activity.

**Toothache:** A child with significant pain should not attend school until feeling better and/or evaluated by a dentist.