

Should my child stay home from school?

Fever

A student with a fever of 100.00 or higher should be kept home until the fever is gone for 24 hrs. If your child has been placed on an antibiotic he or she should receive the medication for at least 24 hrs. before returning to school.

If the fever is accompanied by a headache and a stiff neck seek medical attention.

Mild Cough/Runny Nose

If there's no fever and the child feels fairly well, school is fine. Often it's the milder symptoms that leave parents wondering what to do. Before you send your child back to school, think to yourself if you would want another child with the same symptoms around yours? If your child is not really sick, but something seems off, let the school know and ask them to monitor your child.

Bad Cough/Cold Symptoms

Children with bad coughs need to stay home and possibly see a doctor. It could be a severe cold or possibly bronchitis, flu, or pneumonia.

Diarrhea or Vomiting

Keep your child home until the illness is over, and for 24 hours after the last episode (without medicine). Though diarrhea and vomiting are not usually associated with flu, they may sometimes occur with swine flu.

Sore Throat

A minor sore throat is usually not a problem, but a severe sore throat could be strep throat even if there is no fever. Other symptoms of strep throat in children are headache and stomach upset. Keep your child home from school and contact a doctor. Your child needs a special test to determine if it is strep throat. He or she can return to school 24 hours after antibiotic treatment begins.

Earache

The child needs to see a doctor.

Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis)

Keep the child home until a doctor has given the OK to return to school. Pink eye is highly contagious and most cases are caused by a virus, which will not respond to an antibiotic. Bacterial conjunctivitis will require an antibiotic; your doctor will be able to determine if this is the case.

Rash

Children with a skin rash should see a doctor, as this could be one of several infectious diseases. One possibility is impetigo, a bacterial skin infection that is very contagious and requires antibiotic treatment.

Lice and Scabies

Follow treatment guidelines from your Health Care Provider and/or CDC protocol. Once your child has followed the treatment guidelines, bring him/her to school to have the school nurse or designee recheck for readmittance to class.

Source: <http://www.webmd.com/cold-and-flu/features/your-child-too-sick-for-school>