

When to Keep Your Child Home From School (Illness Exclusion Guidelines)

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: a temperature at or above 100.0 ° F. Use a thermometer to check the temperature; feeling the forehead is not accurate. The child cannot return to school until he or she is fever-free for 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing medications such as Tylenol or ibuprofen.

Diarrhea or loose bowel movements: even if there are no other signs of illness. The child cannot return to school until he or she is free from diarrhea for 24 hours without the use of diarrhea suppressing medication. *Exception:* If there is a non-medical reason for the diarrhea or the student has a chronic condition resulting in diarrhea, the parent should give written documentation from a healthcare provider to the school nurse.

Vomiting: Any vomiting is a reason to keep a child home from school. The child cannot return to school until he or she has not vomited for at least 24 hours. *Exception:* Reflux (spitting up small amount after eating) or motion sickness (from riding in a car or other vehicle) that goes away after the motion stops would not be a reason to keep a child home. If your student has a chronic condition resulting in frequent reflux or vomiting, the parent should give written documentation from a healthcare provider to the school nurse.

Rash: Any rash illness should be checked by a healthcare provider. The student should not come to school until the rash goes away, or until a healthcare provider has determined it is not infectious.

Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye), bacterial or viral: pink/reddish color to white part of the eye **AND** thick, yellow or greenish, crusty discharge. The student cannot return to school until he or she has permission from a healthcare provider or until the student is symptom free.

Vaccine Preventable Diseases (chicken pox, hepatitis A, rubeola [measles], rubella [German measles], mumps, pertussis [whooping cough]) : The student cannot return to school until a healthcare provider has determined the student is no longer contagious. The parent will give written documentation to the school nurse. The parent should also call the school nurse to notify him or her of the diagnosis as soon as possible after seeing their healthcare provider.

Exclusions are based on the Texas Administrative Code Rule §97.7 and the Centers for Disease Control and Protection.