

## Should I keep my child home or send him or her to school?

Do not send your child to school if any of the following symptoms or conditions were present in the last 24 hours. You may be asked to take your child home if your child:

- Has a fever of 100 degrees or higher. Your child may return to school when the temperature has been normal (98.6) for 24 hours.
- Has been vomiting and/or diarrhea. If your child has two or more episodes during the previous evening or night they may not attend school. Call your child's doctor if symptoms continue for more than 48 hours, your child has a fever or his/her condition worsens.
- Has a rash. All rashes must be diagnosed and/or treated by a physician for your child to remain in school.
- Has bacterial infection. Your child may return to school after taking prescribed antibiotics for 24 hours.
- Has pink eye. If your child has thick mucus or pus draining from the eye (pink eye) he/she can attend school after medical assessment/treatment. If an antibiotic is prescribed, the child must be on the medication for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Has live lice. Please check with your school health clinic about the school district lice policy.
- Has symptoms that prevent him or her from participating in school, such as:
  - Excessive tiredness, pale, difficult to wake, confused or irritable, lack of appetite
  - Productive coughing, sneezing
  - Continuous coughing
  - Headache, body aches, earache
  - 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 upset stomach. Contact your pediatrician as your child needs a special test to determine if it is strep throat.

Keep your child home until his or her fever has been gone for 24 hours without medication. Colds can be contagious for at least 48 hours. Returning to school too soon may slow the recovery process and expose others unnecessarily to illness.

If you are unsure about whether or not to send your child to school, please contact the school nurse with any questions you may have.

Thank you for helping to keep our school healthy!

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## Informational Links

Akron Children's Hospital <https://www.akronchildrens.org/cms/home/index.html>

American Academy of Pediatrics

<http://www.aap.org/en-us/Pages/Default.aspx?nfstatus=401&nftoken=00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000&nfstatusdescription=ERROR%3a+No+local+token>

Centers for Disease Control

<http://www.cdc.gov/>

Portage County Health Department

<http://www.co.portage.oh.us/healthdepartment.htm>