

## **When to keep your child home from school:**

*When a person can return to school depends on the nature of the illness. In general, a child returning to school should be well enough to participate in school (e.g., can adequately manage improving cough and congestion on own, not overly fatigued), and care of the returning child should not interfere with the school staff's ability to teach or care for other students.*

**Communicable Diseases:** Such as Hand Foot and Mouth Disease, Head Lice, Impetigo, Fifth's Disease, Scabies and Strep Throat. The school may send a student home if it appears that they may have a contagious illness. The parent may be asked to provide a doctor's note indicating the symptoms have been evaluated before the student is allowed to return to school. The Ohio Department of Health Communicable Disease Chart serves as the guidelines for determining the recommendations for the student.

**Fever.** If your child has a fever (a temperature of 100.0 F or greater), they should remain at home until they have been fever-free for a full 24 hours (without giving Tylenol or Ibuprofen) and they have returned to their normal level of activity. It is important for you to take your child's temperature before giving the fever-reducing medication. If your child has a fever with a new rash, consult your doctor before returning to school. Be sure to keep a working thermometer at your home.

**Redness or discharge in the eyes.** Redness of the white part of the eye, burning or itching, yellow or white matter or crusted eyelashes can indicate pinkeye or conjunctivitis. Your child should remain at home until she/he has seen the doctor and if prescribed, has used antibiotic eye drops for 24 hours.

**Respiratory/cough and cold symptoms.** Runny noses are a fact of life with children. However, if your child has a fever, nasal drainage that is thick and green, a persistent or productive cough, feels short of breath, or their symptoms are not improving, please have your child stay home and consider consulting your child's doctor. They may return to school when fever free for at least 24 hours (as listed above) and feel better enough to come to school. NOTE: The school nurse does not stock cough and cold medications of any kind (except cough drops).

**Skin Sores that are draining fluid** on an uncovered part of the body and are unable to be covered with a bandage. Contact school nurse for further guidance.

**Sore Throat.** If your child has a persistent or severe sore throat they should remain at home. You should consider contacting your child's doctor if there is a fever, white patches on the tonsils, swollen tender glands, headache or stomach ache. These could indicate a possible strep infection. If that is the case, your child should remain at home until they have had 24 hours of antibiotics and have resumed normal activity.

**Vomiting and/or diarrhea.** Your child should remain at home until they have been without any episodes of vomiting or diarrhea for a full 24 hours and have resumed a typical diet. If your child has had any of these symptoms during the night she/he should not be sent to school the following day.

For any questions regarding if you should send your child to school, contact school nurse.