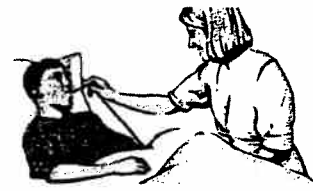


# Too Sick for School?



At one time or another, every parent faces this dilemma: Is my child too sick to send to school? Below are some helpful hints to help you know when not to send your sick child to school:

- **Temperature of 100 degrees or more within the past 24 hours (without Tylenol or other anti-fever medication).**
- Vomiting or diarrhea within the past 24 hours.
- Earache.
- When strep is suspected, but the results of a throat culture are not yet known.
- A positive throat culture for strep: student should be on antibiotic treatment for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Any symptoms of acute illness such as persistent cough or runny nose accompanied by body aches.
- A red eye with crust, mucous or excessive tearing (until diagnosed by a physician and treated with medication for 24 hours if "pink eye").
- Any skin lesion with honey-brown crusts (until diagnosed by a physician and treated with medication for 24 hours if "impetigo").
- Skin lesion: a mild itchy ring-shaped pink patch with a scaly, raised border and a clear center (until diagnosed by a physician and treated with anti-fungal cream if "ringworm").
- If your child has head lice that has not been treated. A child must be treated and their scalp examined by the school nurse before he/she can return to class.
- If your child requires any medication for pain stronger than Tylenol or Ibuprofen, they should not attend school.

The guidelines listed above are meant to help parents determine if a child should attend school or other activities. Your child should look and behave like him/herself for 24-48 hours before returning to school.

- A sick child who returns to school too soon is at risk for picking up other infections due to lowered immunity.
- A child who is still sick is likely to infect other students and staff.
- A child who is not feeling well will not be able to focus on schoolwork.

Please notify school if your child develops any communicable condition such as: strep throat, chicken pox, pinworm or head lice.

**Any student who has been absent with a contagious condition must bring in a doctor's note stating the child may return to school.**

**Remind your child about frequent hand washing. It is the most effective means of preventing the spread of communicable diseases.**