

Should I Send My Child to School Today?

Often parents wonder when it is appropriate to send their child to school. If your child has any of the following symptoms, please keep him/her home, or make appropriate child care arrangements.

- **APPEARANCE/BEHAVIOR**-unusually tired, pale, lack of appetite, difficult to wake, confused or irritable.
- **EYES**-thick mucus or pus draining from the eye or the eye is red, waters profusely and feels irritated-please contact health care provider or clinic
- **FEVER**-temperature of 100 degrees F or higher in the past 24 hours
- **GREENISH NOSE DISCHARGE AND/OR COUGH**- contact your health care provider for appropriate treatment
- **SORE THROAT**-especially with fever or swollen glands in neck, please contact your health care provider or clinic. If strep throat, the student may return to school after on antibiotics for 24 hours and feeling better.
- **DIARRHEA**-two or more watery stools in a 24-hour period, especially if the child acts or looks ill.
- **VOMITING**-vomiting two or more times within the past 24 hours
- **RASH**-body rash, especially with fever or itching – student can return when rash has cleared or has physician diagnosis and treatment.
- **EAR INFECTIONS WITHOUT FEVER**-do not need to be kept home unless experiencing other symptoms as noted above. Contact health care provider as untreated ear infections can cause permanent hearing loss.
- **LICE, SCABIES**-children may not return to school until they have been treated and are free of lice and nits (eggs). Children with scabies can be admitted to school after treatment has been initiated by health care practitioner or clinic.

Bringing a child to school with any of the above symptoms places other children and staff at risk. Keeping sick children home will result in faster recovery and, in the long run, result in having stronger, healthier, and happier children-and fewer lost work days and illness for parents.

Please note that there are no options for students to stay indoors for recess if they have been ill. Getting fresh air is helpful for the children but please do send your child to school with appropriate outdoor clothing-coat, hats, and gloves.

