



## **When Is My Child Too Sick For School?**

Proper care in the early stages of an illness can decrease recovery time for a sick child and the possibility of spreading the condition to others. A balanced diet, adequate rest, and frequent hand washing can assist in the body's ability to fight infection and decrease transmission.

**Irritability, poor appetite, tiredness, and achiness** are vague symptoms. Changes in a child's normal behavior can often signal the beginning of an illness, which may be contagious in the early stages.

**Fever of 100.4 degrees and above.** Take your child's temperature if s/he is complaining of feeling tired, headache, sore throat or stomach ache. A student must be ***fever-free for 24 hours WITHOUT*** the use of fever-reducing medication (Tylenol, Advil, etc.) before returning to school. A student sent home from school with a fever **will not be able to attend class the following day.**

**Vomiting or Diarrhea.** Keep your child at home for a minimum of **24 hours after the last episode** of vomiting or diarrhea. Your student must be **drinking, eating, and toileting normally at home** before returning to classes. School officials may extend the return to school time due to increased gastrointestinal illness in the school or community.

**Suspected contagious conditions** School administration may determine to send a child home with unidentified symptoms. Such as a child with a rapidly spreading rash, or a rash with a low grade fever and behavioral changes, or red eyes with drainage. Students may return to class with a doctor's clearance note or when symptoms are resolved.

**Conditions Reportable to the Health Department.** School will follow the recommendations from our local health departments to determine the return to school criteria.

**Please refer to your school handbook for further information**