

Is My Child Too Ill To Attend School?

Parents are often confronted with this decision when their child complains of not feeling well. The guidelines shown below may be helpful. It does not cover every medical condition and does not take the place of seeking medical attention. Please consult your doctor for specific medical advise.

Fever – 100 degrees or higher

A fever is a sign of illness. A child with a temperature of 100 degrees or higher should not attend school. The child should be free of fever for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication before returning to school.

Sore Throat/Colds/Cough

Minor cold symptoms are common and usually don't interfere with school attendance. A persistent, frequent cough and/or constant nasal drainage may affect your child's performance at school, and he/she may be more comfortable at home.

Rash

A rash may cover the entire body or only one area. A child with a rash that is draining, has open areas or is causing the child to itch excessively should not attend school. A rash accompanied with other symptoms such as: a fever, sore throat, irritability, vomiting, etc. should also keep your child from attending school.

Vomiting/Diarrhea

A child who has vomited should wait 24 hours and be able to retain solid foods before returning to school. A child who is having frequent diarrhea stools should not attend school. If there is cramping/abdominal pain with diarrhea, the student may be more comfortable at home.

If your child gets ill at school.

An attempt will be made to understand the child's complaint. This may include asking some questions about how he/she feels, taking temperature, making observations, and talking to the teacher.

If a student has a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, the parent/guardian will be called and the student will be sent home, unless it is close to school dismissal.

Temperature is not the only symptom that influences the decision to send the student home; general appearance, and functioning are important factors. After a period of observation a decision will be made to allow the student to rest for a brief period or call the parent/guardian.

Thank you for your understanding and assistance in keeping our school healthy.

Alice Althoff
School Nurse