



When to go, when to stay home: A guide to student illness

Illness/Symptom	Stay Home/ Sent Home from School	Go to/Return to School
Fever*	Temperature of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher	Fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication
Cold Symptoms: Cough, Runny Nose, Sore Throat	Cold symptoms accompanied by a fever or too sick to participate in regular activities	Fever-free,** well enough to participate in regular activities, and/or has been cleared by a healthcare provider
Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease	Mouth sores and/or skin rash on the palm of the hands and/or soles of the feet accompanied by a fever* without a healthcare diagnosis	Fever-free,** well enough to participate in regular activities, and/or has been cleared by a healthcare provider. Blisters must be dried with no drainage
Head Lice	Unable to participate in regular activities due to severe itching	Appropriate treatment has begun
Impetigo	Lesions or blisters without a healthcare diagnosis	Fever-free** and after 12 hours of appropriate antibiotic therapy. All sores on exposed skin must be covered
Pink Eye	Eye is pink or red with swelling of the eyelids and/or eye discharge without a healthcare diagnosis	Nonsymptomatic or has been cleared to return by a healthcare provider
Ringworm	Itchy, red, scaly, or cracked skin, or ring-shaped rash without a healthcare diagnosis	Appropriate treatment has begun. All sores on exposed skin must be covered
Rash	A rash with blisters that are draining, painful, look like bruises, appear suddenly or spread quickly, and/or if a fever* develops	Rash has healed and/or has been cleared for return by a healthcare provider
Strep Throat	A sore throat or difficulty swallowing with fever*	Fever-free** and after 12 hours of appropriate antibiotic therapy
Upset Stomach: Abdominal Pain, Diarrhea, Vomiting	Abdominal pain that continues for more than 2 hours along with fever* or other concerning symptoms, has more than three loose watery stools per day and/or sudden increase in frequency, has vomited 2 or more times in the last 24 hours	Symptom-free for 24 hours, if determined to be caused by a diagnosed non-communicable/non-infectious condition, and/or if stool frequency is no more than two times above normal and without fecal accidents

*Fever: temperature of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher

** Fever-free: temperature below 100.4°F (38°C) for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications such as Tylenol, Ibuprofen.

For additional questions about student absence due to illness, contact your school nurse.