

When “Sick” is “Too Sick to Come to School”

We are often asked when a student is too ill to attend school. Here are some guidelines to help you decide when to keep your student home from school:

1. Fever over 100.5F (remain out until 24 hours after fever resolves without the aid of fever-reducing medication)
2. Frequent diarrhea (3 or more loose stools within an 8 hour time period) especially if accompanied by fever or if the stool contains blood or mucus. For children in diapers the stool must be contained in the diaper to come to school. For toilet-trained children they must have control of their bowel and be able to use the toilet appropriately
3. Vomiting – 2 or more times within 24 hours (remain out until 24 hours after last emesis)
4. Rash that is spreading or accompanied by fever or behavior change
5. Severe pain or other symptoms that prevent the child from concentrating or participating in classroom activities. Ask “Will your child be able to participate in regular classroom activities despite their current symptoms?”

When in doubt – give us a call and we would be happy to help you make the best choice for your child! If your student sees a doctor for their illness remember to get a medical note – this is excused differently and can help you avoid truancy concerns if your student is ill for more than a few days!

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