

When to Keep Your Child Home from School

Fever

If your child's temperature is 100.0 degrees or higher, then your child may not attend school. On the other hand, many children are sick and should be kept home even though they do not have a temperature- we count on parents to use good judgement with this decision. While at home, encourage your child to drink plenty of liquids. Your child must be fever-free for 24 hours (without medicine) before returning to school.

Mild Cough/Runny Nose

If there's no fever, and the child feels well enough, he/she may attend school.

Lice

Please do your part to prevent the spread of this communicable condition. Treat your child with a pharmacist recommended OTC product following the directions on the bottle EXACTLY as written by the manufacturer. Report lice activity to the MGES Health Office, your child's confidentiality will be maintained. Your child may return to school after treatment is complete and checked by the school nurse.

Bad Cough/Cold Symptoms

Children with bad coughs need to stay home, and possibly see a doctor. It could be a severe cold or possibly bronchitis, flu, or pneumonia. When the cough improves, and your child is feeling better, then it's back to school. You don't wait for the cough to disappear entirely – that could take a week or longer!

Diarrhea or Vomiting

Keep your child home until the illness is over, and for 24 hours after the last episode (without medicine).

Sore Throat

A minor sore throat is usually not a problem, but a severe sore throat could be strep throat – even if there is no fever. Other symptoms of strep throat in children are headache and stomach upset. Keep your child home from school and contact a doctor. Your child needs a special test to determine if it is strep throat. If prescribed, he/she can return to school 24 hours after antibiotic treatment begins.

Earache

The child needs to see a doctor to rule out infection

Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis)

Keep the child home until a doctor has given the OK to return to school. Pink eye is highly contagious and most cases are caused by a virus, which will not respond to an antibiotic. Bacterial conjunctivitis will require an antibiotic: your doctor will be able to determine if this is the case.

Rash

Children with a skin rash should see a doctor, as this could be one of several infectious diseases requiring medical treatment.

*****Remember when in doubt: always call your pediatric provider for advice.**