

School Exclusion Criteria

Mild illness are very-common during school years. However, there are a few illnesses that require **excluding** or keeping your child home from school (and usually taking your child to see your Pediatrician) if he isn't able to participate in regular activities or having any of the following symptoms:

- **Fever (100 degrees or more)** must be fever free for 24 hours without medication before returning to school.
- **lethargy** or a very decreased activity
- **Irritability** or persistent crying.
- trouble breathing
- **Rash**, if it is associated with a **fever**.
- **Diarrhea** that has blood or mucus in it or is frequent and interfering with classroom participation.
- **Vomiting** more than two times in a twenty four hour period.
- **Mouth sores** (like from gingivostomatitis and hand foot and mouth disease) in younger children that are still drooling a lot (special needs or preschool).
- Eye infections (conjunctivitis or **pink eye**) if yellow drainage, swelling and or matting of the eyes is observed.

With many **bacterial infections**, it is safe to go back to school after appropriate treatments, including:

- twenty four hours of antibiotic therapy for **strep throat** and **impetigo**
- a single treatment for **scabies** and head **lice**
- five days of antibiotics for **pertussis** infections
- Staphylococcus infections that are under treatment and all open sores must be covered with a bandage.

Viral infections, which usually do not have any treatments, are usually contagious until after a certain period of time, including:

- Chickenpox is contagious until all of the lesions have dried and are crusted over (usually six or seven days after the infection began).
- Hepatitis A is contagious until at least a week after the infection and jaundice began

Children do not need to be excluded if they have a **mild upper respiratory tract infection**, even if it is associated with green or yellow nasal discharge, as long as the child does not have a fever or any of the other symptoms described above. However, persistent cough lasting more than 5 days or accompanied by fever may be a sign of more serious illness and requires a physician's evaluation before returning to school.

Also children do not need to be excluded if they have fifth disease (Parvovirus B19 infection), because they are no longer contagious once the rash appears, and you usually don't know they have it until the rash appears, a **rash without a fever**, a **red eye** without a yellow or green discharge, fever or matting, **warts**, or **ringworm**. Ringworm must be under treatment and the area covered to participate in school.

Other infections include prolonged exclusion from school, including **tuberculosis** (children should be excluded until properly treated and the health dept. says they are no long contagious), and **E. coli and Shigella infections** (until diarrhea resolves and the child has two stool cultures that don't show an infection).