

Too Sick for School?

The question of when is a child too sick to attend school is not always as easy to answer as it seems. Often parents need to make judgments of whether to send their child to school and see if they feel better or keep them home and have them rest. Below are some guidelines to help you make this often difficult decision.

The recommendations are based on the guidelines provided by the Communicable Disease Division of the Washington County Department of Health and Human Services. They were developed to help prevent the spread of potentially contagious disease.

Keep your child home if he/she has any of the following symptoms:

Symptom	Explanation
Fever	greater than 100° F; may return when fever-free for 24 hours (WITHOUT use of fever-reducing medicine)
Vomiting	>2 in the preceding 24 hours, unless determined to be from non communicable conditions; may return when resolved
Diarrhea	3 or more watery or loose stools in 24 hours; may return when resolved for 24 hours
Stiff Neck	or headache with accompanying fever; may return after resolution of symptoms or diagnosis made and clearance given
Rash	any new onset of rash if accompanied by fever; may return after rash resolves or diagnosis is made and clearance given
Jaundice	yellowing of eyes or skin; may return after diagnosis from physician and clearance given
Skin Lesions (Sores)	Drainage that cannot be contained within a bandage
Other	symptoms or complaints that prevent the student from active participation in usual school activities

If your child is diagnosed with a communicable disease, please notify the school as soon as possible. Some students have medical conditions that require special care if they are exposed to certain illnesses. Home is the best place for a child who is ill. If your child is sick and will be missing school, please call the school to report the absence.