

## When a Child is Too Sick for School or Daycare

### When is my child too sick to go to school or daycare?

Check to see if your child's school or daycare has a list of reasons to keep your child home. Some schools and daycares have different reasons than these.

Your child should stay home if your child:

- Is too sick to do school or daycare activities.
- Might make other children, teachers or workers sick with a harmful illness.
- Needs more care than the school or daycare can provide.

Your child does not need to stay home with a minor illness such as a cold, ringworm, warts, fever in a child over 6 months old, or pink eyes with clear drainage.

### When should my child stay home?

Your child should stay home, or may be sent home, if your child has:

- A harmful illness that could make others sick. Harmful illnesses include chickenpox, measles, and whooping cough.
- Strep throat. After 24 hours of an antibiotic, your child may return.
- A fever with behavior change. Fever is not a reason alone to keep a child home from school or daycare after 6 months of age. If your child has a fever over 101°F (38.3°C) and is too sick to do normal activities, your child should stay home. Many schools or daycares have their own rule for when a child should stay home for fever.
- Sleepiness that will keep them from doing normal school or daycare activities.
- An eye infection with a lot of pus coming from one or both eyes and pink eyes.
- Thrown up more than 2 times in 24 hours.
- Frequent diarrhea that does not stay in diapers or the toilet, or has blood in the diarrhea.
- Mouth sores with drooling. If seen by a doctor, your child can return.
- Problems breathing. If your child has asthma, they may need to take medicine to help their breathing. If the medicines are not working, your child should not be in school or daycare.
- A new rash with a fever or behavior change.
- Open sores that are draining and cannot be covered by bandages or clothes.
- Head lice that have not been treated. Your child can go back one day after they have the first treatment. They do not need to be free of nits to go back, unless your child's school has a "nit-free" policy.
- Scabies that has not been treated. Your child can go back one day after the first treatment.

**ALERT:** Call your doctor, nurse, or clinic if you have any questions or concerns or if you have special health care needs that were not covered by this information.

**This teaching sheet is meant to help you care for your child. It does not take the place of medical care. Talk with your healthcare provider for diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up.**