



***When Is a Child Too Sick To Attend School?
(as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and adapted from
Guidelines from the Child Care Council of Suffolk, Inc.)***

GUIDELINES

1. Illness that results in a need for care that is greater than the staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children.
2. Fever defined by **100.4 degrees F or higher**. May return after **24 hours without fever**.
3. Diarrhea as defined as **one abnormally loose stool in the past 24 hours** or cannot be contained within toilet use. May return to school **after diarrhea is resolved** and child is feeling well.
4. Effortful vomiting with or without fever after 6 pm the preceding evening. May return to school when child has stopped vomiting for **at least 24 hours**.
5. Rash with fever or a rash that is possibly infectious (open, draining lesions). May return to school when **determined noninfectious by physician**.
6. Severe sore throat or trouble swallowing with or without fever. Child may return to school **after 24 hours after antibiotic treatment has been initiated and 24 hours without fever**.
7. Severe coughing, a croupy or whooping cough sound. Child may return when it is **determined noninfectious by physician**.
8. Constant runny nose.
9. Infected skin patches that are crusty, bright yellow, dry or gummy. May return to school **24 hours after start of topical antibiotics (if prescribed) and determined noninfectious by physician**.
10. Severe itching of the body or scalp.
11. Purulent conjunctivitis ('pink eye') as evidenced by tears, redness of eyelid lining and irritation, followed by swelling and discharge of pus. Child may return to school **after 24 hours after treatment has been initiated**.
12. Any contagious disease such as chicken pox, etc.
13. If an antibiotic has been given for an ear infection, **wait 24 hours** before sending your child back to school.
14. Mouth sores associated with drooling (in children unable to control oral secretions), fever, and poor appetite.

Keeping children home from school when ill prevents the spreading of disease, so that all children will be healthier.