

WHEN TO KEEP SICK CHILDREN HOME FROM SCHOOL

Information compiled from CDC (Centers for Disease Control) and DHEC (Department of Health and Human Services).

Deciding when to keep a sick child at home from school is not always easy. It's important for children to attend school and for some parents staying home means missing work. But when a child is truly sick, they need to stay home in the care of an adult to get well and to prevent spreading illness to others.

Please keep the school office up to date with current phone numbers so you or an alternate contact can be reached if your child becomes ill or injured at school.

The following information may help you decide when to keep your child at home. "Child" refers to all school-aged children including adolescents. This information does not take the place of consulting a medical provider.

- **A child with heavy cold symptoms such as deep or uncontrollable coughing or significant lack of energy belongs at home even without a fever.**
- **A child with flu-like symptoms (fever and cough) must stay home from school for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever or signs of a fever, without the use of a fever-reducing medicine. A fever is defined as a temperature of 100° F or higher. If symptoms occur while at school, the student must be picked up as soon as possible to go home. Contact a medical provider with severe symptoms.**
- **A child who has vomited or had diarrhea should be kept at home and should return to school only after being symptom-free for 24 hours.**
- **A child with a fever of 100° F or higher should not attend school and should not return until he/she has been fever free for 24 hours after they no longer have a fever or without the use of fever-reducing medicine.**

Visit www.scdhec.gov/health/disease/exclusion.htm for a complete school exclusion list of contagious or communicable diseases.