



## WASHINGTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

333 E. Washington St., Suite 1100

PO Box 2003

West Bend, WI 53095-2003

Phone: 262-335-4462 Fax: 262-335-4705

<http://www.co.washington.wi.us/chn>

## When to Keep Your Child Home from School or Day Care

Deciding when a child is too sick to go to school or daycare can be a difficult decision for parents to make. When trying to decide, use the guidelines below to help you. This information is not intended as medical advice. It is designed to provide guidelines to be followed until your doctor can be reached for medical advice. Your doctor should be consulted regarding any childhood illnesses.

As a general rule, exclude your child from school if:

- The child does not feel well enough to participate comfortably in activities (extreme tiredness, irritability, persistent crying or coughing).
- The child requires more care than staff can provide without effecting the learning process or the health and safety of the other children
- The illness poses a risk of spread of disease to others (see chart on reverse).

If you have any questions about your child's health and development your best resource is his/her physician. Some schools also have a School Nurse available to as a resource. Your local public health department is a resource for immunization information and free or reduced cost immunizations. If you are uninsured, your child may qualify for health insurance if you qualify for WIC or the free / reduced price hot lunch program; please contact your local department of social services/economic support for more information.

Parent resources:

- Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services: <http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/index.htm>
- Washington County Health Department: [www.co.washington.wi.us/chn](http://www.co.washington.wi.us/chn)
- American Academy of Pediatrics: [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org)

The Following Chart is based on:

Managing Infections Disease in Childcare and School, American Academy of Pediatrics, 2005

Editors: Susan S. Aronson, MD FAAP and Timothy R. Shope, MD, MPH, FAAP

| Symptom  | When to exclude   | When to return  |
|--|---|---|
| Cold or Cough <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Runny Nose</li> <li>• Scratchy / irritated throat</li> <li>• Coughing</li> <li>• Sneezing</li> <li>• Watery eyes</li> </ul> | If child has a fever with behavior change, looks or acts very ill, severe or uncontrolled cough, rapid or difficulty breathing, wheezing  | Once exclusion criteria have been resolved  |
| Diarrhea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frequent loose or watery stools compared to child's normal pattern</li> <li>• Abdominal cramps</li> </ul>                        | If child has 2 or more episodes of diarrhea in a 24 hour period, blood or mucus is in the stool, abnormal color of the stool for child, no urine output in 8 hours, skin or eyes are yellow (Jaundice), fever with behavior change, looks or acts very ill  | Once child has been diarrhea free for 24 hours, or cleared by a health professional for bloody diarrhea.  |
| Eye Irritation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mucus in the eye</li> <li>• Pink color instead of white of eye</li> </ul>  | If child has bacterial infection (as determined by his/her physician).  | Once on medication at least 24 hours.   |
| Fever  | Children <u>over</u> four months of age: 101 or above if taken orally (100 under arm and 102 rectally)<br>Children <u>under</u> 4 months of age: a fever of 100 or above if taken under arm and 101 or more if taken rectally   | Once fever free for 24 hours and able to participate.   |
| Itching  | If child has chickenpox, scabies, impetigo, ringworm or headlice they should be excluded.<br>If they have pinworm, allergic or irritant reactions and eczema they do not need to be excluded unless it appears infected or the itching interferes with learning.  | Once seen and cleared by a health professional, on medication at least 24 hours if indicated.<br><u>Headlice</u> : Follow policy of school or daycare center.<br><u>Chicken pox</u> : Pox needs to be dried and scabbed over) |
| Pain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Earache</li> <li>• Headache</li> <li>• Mouth Pain</li> <li>• Sore Throat</li> <li>• Stomach Ache</li> </ul>                          | <u>Earache &amp; Headache</u> : If unable to participate or care would decrease staff's ability to teach and care for other children.<br><u>Mouth Pain or Tooth Ache</u> : If child has mouth sores, tooth pain, drooling or difficulty swallowing.<br><u>Sore Throat</u> : If child is unable to swallow, has excessive drooling, fever with behavioral changes.<br><u>Stomachache</u> : If child is uncomfortable, pain lasts more than two hours, has been injured, bloody or black stool, no urine output for 8 hours, diarrhea, vomiting, fever with behavioral changes, looks or acts very ill. | Once pain has resolved, child able to participate. With strep throat your child may return to school after 24 hours on antibiotics.   |
| Rash/Spots<br>(see also itching)   | If child has measles, mumps, chickenpox, scabies, impetigo, or ringworm they should be excluded.<br><br>If they have pinworm, allergic or irritant reactions and eczema they do not need to be excluded unless it appears infected or the itching interferes with learning.   | Once seen and cleared by a health professional.<br>On medication as indicated by physician and Local Public Health Department.<br>(Chicken pox: Pox needs to be dried and scabbed over)                                       |
| Vomiting   | Vomiting two or more times in the last 24 hours, recent history of head injury, looks or acts very ill, vomit that appears bloody or green.   | Until vomiting resolves for at least 24 hours or a health care provider decides it is not contagious.   |