



## **Guidelines for Keeping Sick Children Home from School**

Each day many parents are faced with a decision: should they keep their sick children at home or send them off to school? Often the way a child looks and acts can make the decision an obvious one. The following guidelines should be considered when making the decision: us

**Fever.** The child should remain at home with a fever greater than 100°. The child can return to school after he/she has been fever free for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medicine such as Tylenol or Motrin).

**Diarrhea/Vomiting.** A child with diarrhea and /or vomiting should stay at home and return to school only after being symptom-free for 24 hours.

**Conjunctivitis.** Following a diagnosis of conjunctivitis, the child may return to school 24 hours after the first dose of prescribed medication.

**Rashes.** Common infectious diseases with rashes are most contagious in the early stages. A child with a suspicious rash should return to school only after a health care provider has made a diagnosis and authorized the child's return to school.

**Colds.** Consider keeping your child at home if he/she is experiencing discomfort from cold symptoms, such as nasal congestion and cough. A continuous green discharge from the nose may be a sign of infection. Consider having the child seen by your health care provider.

A sick child cannot learn effectively and is unable to participate in classes in a meaningful way. Keeping a sick child home prevents the spread of illness in the school community and allows the child opportunity to rest and recover.

