



Children's Hospital Colorado

**ILLNESS POLICY - HOW SICK IS TOO
SICK?
WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD AT HOME
FROM SCHOOL OR CHILD CARE**

There are three main reasons to keep sick children at home:

1. The child doesn't feel well enough to take part in normal activities, (such as; overly tired, fussy or won't stop crying).
2. The child needs more care than teachers and staff can give, and still care for the other children.
3. The illness is on this list and staying home is recommended.

And remember, the best way to prevent the spread of infection is through good hand washing.

Children with the following symptoms or illness should be kept home (excluded) from school:

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information provided by the healthcare provider, November 2013

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ILLNESS	Child Must Be at Home?
CHICKEN POX	Yes - until blisters have dried and crusted (usually 6 days)
CONJUNCTIVITIS (PINK EYE) pink color of eye <i>and</i> thick yellow/green discharge	No (bacterial or viral) – children don't need to stay home unless the child has a fever or behavioral changes. Call the doctor for diagnosis and possible treatment.
CROUP (SEE COUGHING) <u>Note:</u> May not need to stay home unless child is not well enough to take part in usual activities	Seek medical advice
FIFTH'S DISEASE	No - child is no longer contagious once rash appears
HAND FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (Coxsackie virus)	No - unless the child has mouth sores, is drooling and isn't able to take part in usual activities
HEAD LICE OR SCABIES	Yes - from end of the school day until after first treatment.
HEPATITIS A	Yes - until 1 week after the start of the illness and when able to take part in usual activities
HERPES	No, unless - the child has open sores that cannot be covered or is drooling uncontrollably
IMPETIGO	Yes - for 24 hours after starting antibiotics
RINGWORM	Yes - from end of school until after starting treatment Keep area covered for the first 2 days
ROSEOLA	Yes – if the child has a fever and rash, call the doctor
RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus)	Staying home isn't necessary, but is recommended when a child is not well enough to take part in usual activities and/or is experiencing acute respiratory symptoms. Call the doctor. RSV spreads quickly through classrooms
STREP THROAT	Yes - for 24 hours after starting antibiotics and the child is able to take part in usual activities
VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES Measles, Mumps, Rubella (German Measles), Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	Yes – the doctor says the child is no longer contagious
YEAST INFECTIONS including thrush or Candida diaper rash	No - follow good hand washing and hygiene practices

References

- American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education. 2011. Caring for our children: National health and safety performance standards; Guidelines for early care and education programs. 3rd edition. Elk Grove Village, IL.
- American Academy of Pediatrics, *Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and Schools*, 3rd Edition, Elk Grove Village, IL 2013.
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Communicable Disease Epidemiology Program, *Infectious Disease in Child Care Settings: Guidelines for Schools and Child Care Providers*, Denver, CO, October 2013.