



River Valley School District
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Knowing When to Keep a Sick Child Home from School

As a parent, there are times when you may be unsure whether or not to send your child to school. School attendance is very important, but keep in mind that school may not be the best place for your child, when ill, for a couple of reasons:

1. Illnesses can be passed easily to others, in a classroom setting
2. Learning is more difficult when a child is not feeling well

Please be aware of signs and symptoms of illness, and keep your child home if they have the following:

- Temperature equal to or higher than 100 degrees (before taking medication such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen). The child should be without fever for 24 hours, prior to returning to school.
- Diarrhea in the past 24 hours
- Vomiting in the past 24 hours
- Persistent or severe sore throat
- Skin rash with a fever
- Sores on skin or mouth that are crusty, yellow or draining
- Eye discharge: thick greenish/yellow drainage
- Symptoms of a contagious illness such as chicken pox, mumps, pertussis (whooping cough). May return as directed after evaluation by a healthcare provider.
- Chickenpox: all lesions must be crusted over-no draining lesions can be present
- Constant cough or complaints of difficulty breathing or rapid breathing

Reminder: If your child has been prescribed an antibiotic for a contagious illness (i.e. strep throat), he/she should be on the prescribed medication, and fever free, for 24 hours prior to returning to school.

HAND WASHING IS THE # 1 WAY TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF GERMS.

Please don't hesitate to call with any questions regarding the health of your child.

Michelle Johnson Ford RN, BSN

