



County of Erie

CHRIS COLLINS
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Anthony J. Billittier IV, M.D., FACEP
Commissioner of Health

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

General Guidelines for Keeping Children Home from School Due to Illness

If your child has had any of these symptoms during the night, he/she should not be sent to school the following day.

Common Cold - Irritated throat, watery discharge from the nose and eyes, sneezing, chilliness, and general body discomfort. Your child should remain home if symptoms are serious enough to interfere with your child's ability to learn. Medical care should be obtained if symptoms persist beyond 7-10 days, fever or cough producing phlegm develops, or nasal discharge becomes yellow or green.

Cough – Cough that interferes with child's ability to fully participate in classroom activities. Coughs lasting beyond 7-10 days and coughs producing phlegm should be evaluated by a physician.

Fever - If a child's temperature is ≥ 99.9 degrees, he/she should remain home until he/she has been without fever for a full 24 hours. Remember that fever is a symptom indicating the presence of an illness.

Flu - Abrupt onset of fever, chills, headache, and sore muscles. Runny nose, sore throat, and cough are common. Your child should remain home from school until symptoms are gone and the child is without fever for a full 24 hours.

Head Lice - Lice are small grayish-tan, wingless insects that lay eggs called nits. Nits firmly attach to the hair shaft, close to the scalp. Nits are much easier to see and detect than lice are. They are small white specks, which are usually found on the hair at the nape of the neck and behind the ears. Following lice infestation, your child may return to school after receiving treatment with a lice shampoo.

Impetigo - On the skin, the blister-like lesions, which later develop into crusted pus-like sores or boils. Your child should remain home from school until receiving 48 hours of antibiotic therapy and the sores are no longer draining.

Pain - If your child complains or behavior indicates that he/she is experiencing persistent pain, he/she should be evaluated by a physician before your child is sent to school.

Pinkeye - Redness and swelling of the membranes of the eye with burning, or itching, matter coming from one or both eyes, or crusts on the eyelids. Your child should remain home from school until receiving 24 hours of antibiotic therapy and discharge from the eyes has stopped or a note from the medical care provider documenting that this is not an infectious process.

Strep Throat - Strep throat begins with fever, sore and red throat, pus spots on the back of the throat, tender swollen glands of the neck. High fever, nausea and vomiting may also occur. Your child should remain home from school until receiving a full 24 hours of antibiotic therapy and until without fever or vomiting for 24 hours.

Skin Rashes - A physician should evaluate skin rashes of unknown origin before your child is sent to school.

Vomiting & Diarrhea - Stomach ache, cramping, nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea, possible fever, headache and body aches. Your child should remain at home until without vomiting, diarrhea or fever for a full 24 hours

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