Dear Parents:

If your child gets a contagious illness, you may be required to keep her home from school/childcare until the illness is no longer a danger to others. You’ll find a list of contagious illnesses on the S.C. School and Childcare Exclusion List inside this brochure. As you’ll see, for some illnesses, you will need to provide a parent note or a medical note clearing him or her to return to school/childcare.

The information in this brochure applies to:

- All children in out-of-home childcare,
- All students in 3, 4, and 5-year-old kindergarten, and
- Some school-aged children with special health care needs and/or certain developmental delays. Your child’s school will let you know if the exclusion guidelines for younger children apply to your medically fragile child.

You can also find the School and Childcare Exclusion List on the DHEC website at: www.scdhec.gov/Health/ChildTeenHealth/ChildcareExclusion

Questions? Contact your child’s school or childcare provider or your local public health department.

Questions to Consider When Your Child is Sick:

1. Does your child’s illness keep him/her from comfortably taking part in activities?
2. Does your sick child need more care than the staff can give without affecting the health and safety of other children?
3. Could other children get sick from being near your child?

If the answer to any of these questions is “Yes,” please keep your child out of school or childcare.

Frequently Asked Questions

When should my sick child stay home from school or childcare?

If your child feels too sick to go to school or has one of the illnesses listed inside this brochure, keep him home.

Does my child need to stay home when she just has a cold?

Many children with mild colds who have no fever and who feel well enough to go to school or childcare do not need to stay home. Most colds spread in the 1-3 days before a child gets a runny nose, cough or other symptoms.

Does my child need to be out of school or childcare if she has pinkeye?

No, not unless your health care provider recommends it or the child has a fever or pain. Pinkeye is similar to the common cold in that it can be spread to others but usually clears up without medicine. Frequent, good hand washing is the best way to keep your child from spreading pinkeye.

How long will my child need to stay home if he is sick?

It depends. See the inside of this brochure for illness-specific information.

Would my child ever be required to stay out of school for reasons other than her own illness?

If your child is ever exposed to a vaccine-preventable disease (such as measles), she may be asked to stay home from school or childcare. Your school or DHEC will discuss this with you.

If my child is excluded from attending school, what will he need to present in order to return to school or childcare?

Sometimes a parent note or a medical note clearing your child for return to school/childcare is required. See inside this brochure for details.

Could an illness prevent my child from participating in sports and other school-related activities?

Some illnesses or conditions spread by close contact – lice, scabies, shingles, staph or strep skin infections, for instance – may prevent your child from participating in some sports or physical activities. If your child has mononucleosis or CMV, she may be told she can’t participate in physical education or sports in order to avoid injuries. If your child has diarrhea, she should not participate in water activities like swimming, splash pads, or water tables until 2 weeks after the diarrhea stops.

OK to Attend

Children with the following conditions do not have to be excluded from school or childcare, if they feel well enough to participate in regular activities.

- Canker sores
- Chronic Hepatitis B or C
- Colds or coughs without fever or other signs of illness
- Cold sores
- Croup
- Cytomegalovirus (PE and sports exclusions may apply)
- Disease spread by mosquitoes: malaria, West Nile virus
- Diseases spread by ticks: babesiosis, ehrlichiosis, Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, tularemia
- Ear infection
- Fifth disease
- HIV infection
- Mononucleosis (PE and sports exclusions may apply)
- MRSA, if child is only a carrier
- Pinworms
- Rash without fever or behavior change
- Roseola, once the fever is gone
- Thrush
- Urinary tract infection
- Warts, including molluscum contagiosum
- Yeast diaper rash

Help your child stay healthy and ready to learn.

We hope that your child never has to miss school or childcare because of illness. You can help prevent many illnesses by making sure your child receives all recommended immunizations and washes his or her hands often.

Should I Keep My Sick Child Home from Childcare/School?

If you think that your child has an illness that can be spread to others, please keep him or her home from school or childcare and call your health care provider.

Updated January 31, 2015
Blood or mucus in stool with diarrhea.
Hepatitis A / Yellow Jaundice
E. coli
Measles / Red Measles / 10 Day Measles
Tuberculosis (TB)
Shigella
German Measles / Rubella / 3 Day Measles:
Whooping Cough / Pertussis
"Strep Throat" / Streptococcal Pharyngitis
Salmonella
Ringworm

For most kinds of diarrhea – meaning 3 or more loose appear for 24 hours.

Your child may return to school/childcare once all of the to play with other children.

Bronchiolitis or RSV:
Diarrhea:
Chicken Pox / Varicella:

For the most severe type of E. coli,

- If your child

- If your student can use the restroom or can contain

- If your child

- If your child

- If your student has hand, foot, and mouth disease, she

- If your child has measles, she can return 4 days after the

- If your child has scabies, she cannot attend school/

- If your child

- If there is an outbreak of disease in your child’s

- If your child has not received immunizations (shots)

- If your child

- If your child

- If your child

- If your child

- If there is no fever

- If there is an exposure

- If there are cases of these

- If you are certain the vomiting is not due to a contagious condition.

- If your child gets whooping cough, she can return to school/childcare after completing 5 days of prescribed antibiotics, unless you are directed otherwise by DHEC or your school nurse.

If there is an outbreak of disease in your child’s school or childcare, DHEC may need to change the exclusions found in this document in order to stop the spread of disease.

If your child has not received immunizations (shots) to protect against diseases like measles, mumps, German measles, or chickenpox, he may need to be excluded from school if there are cases of these conditions in the school. Your school nurse will provide more information if there is ever an exposure or outbreak.

Stomach ache (severe) or abdominal pain
If your child suffers with severe stomach pain for 2 hours or more, you should take her to see a health care provider, especially if the child has a fever.

"Strep Throat" / Streplococcal Pharyngitis
If your child has Strep throat, he can return to school or childcare 24 hours after starting antibiotics if there is no fever.

Sty (or Stye)
If your child has a draining/oozing sty that cannot be covered, she should remain home until the draining stops.

Tuberculosis (TB)
If your child has active TB, keep him home until the doctor treating the TB says the child is no longer contagious.

Vomiting
If your young child has vomited 2 or more times in 24 hours they should not return until the vomiting stops, unless you are certain the vomiting is not due to a contagious condition.

Whopping Cough / Pertussis
If your child gets whooping cough, she can return to school/childcare after completing 5 days of prescribed antibiotics, unless you are directed otherwise by DHEC or your school nurse.

If there is an outbreak of disease in your child’s school or childcare, DHEC may need to change the exclusions found in this document in order to stop the spread of disease.

If your child has not received immunizations (shots) to protect against diseases like measles, mumps, German measles, or chickenpox, he may need to be excluded from school if there are cases of these conditions in the school. Your school nurse will provide more information if there is ever an exposure or outbreak.

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www.scdhec.gov/Health/ChildTeenHealth/ChildcareExclusion
CR-010750  2/15