

School and Childcare Exclusion List

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 childcare, or has one of the illnesses on this website, please keep him or her home.
- **Does my child need to stay home when he or she just has a cold?** Most 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 children show symptoms such as a runny nose or minor cough.
- **Does my child need to be out of school or childcare if he or she has pinkeye?** It is helpful to think of pinkeye like the common cold. It can be spread to others, but it usually clears up without medicine. The best way to keep a child from spreading pinkeye is to encourage good hand washing. If your child has pinkeye and a fever or severe eye pain, take him or her to see a doctor.
- **How long will my child need to stay home if he or she is sick?** The School and Childcare Exclusion List explains how long children should stay home after they become sick with certain illnesses.
- **Would my child ever be required to stay out of school or childcare if he or she was not sick?** Sometimes children will also have to stay home from school or childcare if they are exposed to some diseases that are preventable by vaccines. Your school, childcare center or local health department will discuss this amount of time with you.
- **Could an illness prevent my child from participating in sports or other activities?** Children with communicable illnesses may not be allowed to participate in some sports, physical education, or other school activities.