

Should I send my child to school?

Here are some guidelines to follow when faced with the tough decision: Should my child stay home from school?

If your child has: **A Fever of 100.5 or higher**; your child should stay home; your child may return to school 24 hours AFTER the last fever (without medicine).

If your child has: **An Ear Ache**; your child should see a physician with complaints of an earache especially if accompanied by fever; your child may return to school once cleared by a doctor.

If your child has: **An Unidentified Rash**; your child should see a physician. If any unexplained rash is present; your child may return to school once cleared by a doctor.

If your child has: **Mild Cough/Runny Nose**; if there is no fever, and the child feels fairly good, school is fine.

If your child has: **Bad Cough/Cold Symptoms**; children with a bad cough need to stay home and possibly see a doctor. It could be a more serious condition like, bronchitis, flu, or pneumonia; your child may return to school when the cough improves and the child is feeling better. It is not necessary to wait for the cough to be entirely gone.

If your child has: **Diarrhea or Vomiting**; your child should stay home with even one episode of vomiting; keep your child home for 24 hours after the last episode without medicine.

If your child has: **Sore Throat**; a minor sore throat is not a problem. A severe sore throat where the child is having difficulty swallowing or talking could be strep throat. Other symptoms of strep throat are fever, headache, and stomach ache. A special test is needed to determine if it is strep throat. Many times your doctor will not require a visit. They may just order a throat culture; your child may return 24 hours after antibiotic treatment has started.

If your child has: **Head Lice**; your child should stay home; when nits are gone and you have been cleared by the school nurse, your child may return to school.

If your child has: **Pink Eye**; your child may return to school after receiving 24 hours of prescription eye drops.

If your child has: **Ringworm**; your child may be in school as long as the affected area is being treated and is covered.

If your child has: **Poison Ivy**; your child may be in school as long as the areas are not open and draining. If they are open and draining they must stay home or be completely covered to be in school.

Please keep in mind when deciding to send your child to school or not, that unfortunately, we (Nurse's Office) can ONLY provide care for your child with medication and/or sending them home. We can NOT diagnose, prescribe medication and/or treat any conditions. Only a physician can diagnose their illness and order prescription medication.

Sincerely,

Julie Mehler RN, BSN, CSN
Sharpsville Area School District Nurse

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