



# Too Sick for School?

## Guidelines for Keeping Students Home from School Due to Illness

### Keep your child home from school if:

1. Either of the following apply to your child:
  - a. Your child has one of the following major symptoms of COVID-19:
    - i. Difficulty breathing, lost of taste or smell, persistent cough, or shortness of breath
  - b. Your child has two of the following minor symptoms of COVID-19:  
Fever > 100.4, fatigue, headache, chills, muscle/body aches, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat, diarrhea, or nausea or vomiting
2. If the information above applies to your child, it is recommended your child have a proctored COVID-19 test
3. If your child does not meet the criteria for COVID-19 above, but has had one of the below symptoms, we request they be free of those symptoms for at least 24 hours without the use of medications before they return.
  - a. Fever over 100.4
  - b. Vomiting
  - c. Diarrhea
4. If your child has symptoms of a fever, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, or difficulty swallowing food or water, it is recommended your child be evaluated for strep throat. Treating strep can reduce your child's duration of illness, relieve symptoms and prevent complications. If your child is being treated for strep throat, we request your child be on antibiotics for 24 hours and bring a note from a provider before coming back to school.
5. If your child is diagnosed with head lice, ringworm, scabies, pink eye or other highly contagious illness, we recommend they return to school once the recommended treatment is complete. Please bear in mind that flu season typically starts in late fall and continues through late winter. If your child has a respiratory illness during this time, it's important to have them evaluated for the flu.

## Communicable Diseases

The school may send a student home if it appears that they may have a contagious illness. The parent may be asked to provide a doctor's note indicating the symptoms have been evaluated before the student is allowed to return to school. The Ohio Department of Health Communicable Disease Chart serves as the guidelines for determining recommendations for the student. Please refer to the Cincinnati Public Schools Communicable Disease Response Plan for more information.

**In some instances, the Guidelines for Keeping Students Home listed above are modified to prevent or contain an illness outbreak in a school.**

*Please call your doctor or school nurse if you have any questions or concerns, or if your child does not seem to be getting better.*

**GOOD HAND WASHING PREVENTS THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS**