

WHEN SHOULD I SEND MY CHILD TO SCHOOL?

The suggestions below are for children 5 to 18 years of age.
Recommendations may be different for infants and younger children.

Symptoms and Illnesses	Should My Child Go To School?
Parent or other family member is sick, stressed, hospitalized	YES - If you are sick, your child still needs to attend school. Your illness does not excuse your child from attending. We are all sick at times so plan ahead for these days. Get a neighbor, relative, or spouse to take your child to school and pick him or her up.
Chronic Diseases (Asthma, Diabetes, Sickle Cell, Epilepsy, etc.) Chronic disease is a long lasting condition that can be controlled but not cured.	YES - Your child should attend school. School personnel are trained to assist your child with his or her chronic disease and associated needs. Talk to the school nurse.
Child Doesn't Want to go to School Frequent crying, fear, anger, not wanting to socialize, behavior change, stomach ache, nausea (These can be signs of depression, anxiety, or fear)	YES - You should keep your child in school, but try to determine what is causing the changes. Talk to school personnel and consult a health care provider. Your child may be experiencing bullying or trauma, may be behind in his or her school work or not getting along with others. These and other issues may require your or the school's attention.
Cold Symptoms Stuffy nose/runny nose, sneezing, mild cough	YES - If your child is able to participate in school activities send him or her to school. Most children with cold symptoms attend school.
Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye) The white of the eye is pink	YES - Your child can attend school, but call a health care provider to prescribe medication/treatment if it does not go away in 4 or 5 days.
Head Lice Intense itching of the head; may feel like something is moving	YES - Your child can be in school if he or she has had an initial treatment of shampooing of hair with a product for lice.
Strains, Sprains, and Pains	YES - If there is no known injury and your child is able to function (walk, talk, eat) he or she should be in school. If pain is severe or doesn't stop, consult a health care provider.
Menstrual Issues	YES - Most of the time menstrual (periods) issues should not be a problem. If they are severe and interfering with your daughter attending school, consult with a health care provider.
Fever Fever usually means illness, especially if your child has a fever of 100 or higher as well as other symptoms like behavior change, rash, sore throat, vomiting etc.	NO - If your child has a fever of 100 or higher keep them at home until his or her fever is below 100 for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication . If the fever does not go away after 2-3 days or is 102 or higher, you should consult a health care provider.
Diarrhea Frequent, loose or watery stool may mean illness but can also be caused by food and medication	NO - If, in addition to diarrhea, your child acts ill, has a fever or is vomiting, keep him or her at home. If stool is bloody, if the child has abdominal pain, fever or vomiting, you should consult a health care provider.
Vomiting Child has vomited 2 or more times in a 24 hour period	NO - Keep your child at home until the vomiting has stopped 24 hours. If vomiting continues, contact a health care provider.
Coughing Severe, uncontrolled, rapid coughing, wheezing, or difficulty breathing	NO - Keep your child home and contact a health care provider. Asthma - if symptoms are due to asthma, provide treatment according to your child's Asthma Action Plan and when symptoms are controlled send your child to school.
Rash With Fever	NO - If a rash spreads quickly, is not healing, or has open weeping wounds, you should keep your child at home and have him or her seen by a health care provider. Keep child at home for 24 hours after an antibiotic is begun.
Sore Throat With fever, stomach ache, and red, swollen tonsils	NO - Keep your child at home for the first 24 hours after an antibiotic is begun.

This information is based upon recommended guidelines from reliable sources including the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), American Academy of Pediatrics, and Public Health Association. It has been adapted with permission from the Alameda County California District Attorney's Office.