

HEALTH ISSUES: When Should You Keep Your Child Home From School?

Here are some protocol guidelines for common illnesses from the Nerstrand Health Office:

Chicken Pox

Should you keep your child home from school?

Yes. Children with uncomplicated chicken pox may return on the sixth day after the onset of the rash or when the spots are all dried and crusted, whichever is longer.

Cold, with mild symptoms such as stuffy nose with clear drainage, sneezing, mild cough

Should you keep your child home from school?

No. Your child may attend school if he or she is able to participate in school activities.

Conjunctivitis (pink eye)

Should you keep your child home from school?

Yes. Students may return 24 hours after treatment is started.

Cough

Should you keep your child home from school?

Yes. Keep your child home if the cough is persistent and productive coupled with thick or constant nasal drainage.

Diarrhea

Should you keep your child home from school?

Yes. Students should be kept home for 24 hours after the last episode of diarrhea without the use of any medicine.

Fever

Should you keep your child home from school?

Yes. Students should stay home if their temperature is 100 degrees or more. Keep students home until fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-controlling medicine.

Fifth Disease

Should you keep your child home from school?

No. By the time the rash appears, children are no longer contagious and do not need to stay home.

Head Lice

Should you keep your child home from school?

Yes. Students may return after their hair has been treated.

Impetigo

Should you keep your child home from school?

Yes. Students may return to school 24 hours after treatment starts. Sores should be covered when students returns to school.

Influenza-type Illnesses

Should you keep your child home from school?

Yes. Students with influenza-like illness (fever with a cough or sore throat) should stay home and not attend school for at least 24 hours after fever is gone without the use of fever reducing medication. Students should stay home even if they are using antiviral drugs.

Mumps

Should you keep your child home from school?

Yes. Students with mumps should stay home from school for a total of five days after the symptoms begin.

Poison Ivy

Should you keep your child home from school?

No. Poison ivy is not contagious, so students do not need to stay home. Open lesions should be covered when students come to school.

Ringworm

Should you keep your child home from school?

No. Students may come to school as long as the area is being treated and that it remains covered when the student is at school. Proof of treatment must be brought to school.

Staph Infections

Should you keep your child home from school?

Yes. Students may return to school 24 hours after treatment has started. The sore must be covered with a dressing and the dressing must remain dry when the student is at school.

Strep Throat

Should you keep your child home from school?

Yes. Students may return to school 24 hours after treatment has started and when fever is no longer present.

Vomiting

Should you keep your child home from school?

Yes. Students should be kept home for 24 hours after the last episode of vomiting without the use of any medicine.