

Green Bay Area Public Schools

From the Desk of:

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When Children Should Stay Home from School

- Fever is the body's way of destroying the germs making it sick, and it's a common symptom of infections such as flu. Keep your children home if their temperature is 100° F or higher. Wait until children are fever-free before letting them return to school.
- Diarrhea is often the result of infection, food poisoning, or a side effect to medications like antibiotics. If your child is not having pain, not having diarrhea frequently (3 or more in 24 hours) and can make it to the bathroom and wash hands well after using the bathroom they can come to school.
- Vomiting is another way for the body to rid itself of the germs making it sick, and is usually caused by a stomach virus or stomach infection. Keep children home if they've vomited twice or more in the last 24 hours. Student can return to school after symptoms clear up.
- Sore throats can be a symptom of strep or a common cold. If your child has been diagnosed with strep throat, keep your child at home for at least 24 hours after starting antibiotics. If your child has a mild cold, sore throat with no fever it's okay to go to school.
- Pinkeye (conjunctivitis) is contagious, and children should stay home from school for the first 24 hours after treatment begins if they have pus like drainage. If they only have redness, irritation, itching they may attend school.
- Headaches can be a symptom of contagious conditions like viral gastroenteritis, flu, meningitis, and strep throat. Opinions differ on whether a child should be kept home. If your child doesn't have any other signs of illness, and feels okay, your child can go to school.
- Rashes generally are okay to attend school. You can call the school nurse to assess if concerned. If there is a fever with the rash keep your child home.
 - Scabies they may return to school once the treatment is completed. They will still have itching and rash for several weeks.
 - MRSA infections may return as long as on treatment and any drainage from a wound can be contained.
 - Ringworm no reason for exclusion. Should keep area covered by clothing or bandage.
 - Chicken Pox must stay home until all pox's are scabbed over.
- Lice we do not exclude from school, once identified, notify parent and the expectation is that they be treated and return to school the next day.
- Earaches are not contagious. There's no need to keep a child with a mild earache home, as long as your child feels well enough to concentrate.
- Mild cold or respiratory symptoms are not reasons to keep children at home so long as their nasal drainage is clear and their cough is mild. Severe cough and cold symptoms may keep kids home from school. A serious cough could be a sign of contagious conditions like whooping cough, viral bronchitis, or croup.