

DO I SEND MY CHILD TO SCHOOL?

With the cold and flu season already upon us, here are some helpful tips.....

DO NOT send your child to school if **ANY** of these signs or symptoms has occurred in the previous 24 hours:

- Vomiting, nausea, and abdominal pain
- Elevated temperature (100 degrees or higher)
- Repeated diarrhea
- Acute cold with thick nasal drainage, sore throat or persistent cough
- Red or inflamed eyes, or discharge from eyes
- Frequent asthma attacks that are not responsive to normal medication

There will be times when it is difficult to tell when your child is too ill to go to school. Like adults, children have very different tolerances to discomfort or illness. Even the common cold affects everyone differently. If your child is coughing continuously, they will not be able to concentrate and will disrupt others in the classroom. A day of rest at home combined with **LOTS** of fluid speeds their recovery.

If you decide to send your child to school when he or she is on the “borderline” of being ill, it is a good idea to call your child’s school and let them know. **BE SURE** to let the school know where you can be contacted in case your child’s condition worsens.

If your child is diagnosed with:

- **Strep throat** – Individuals must have 24 hours of antibiotics and be fever-free before returning to school
- **Pink eye** – Individuals must have 24 hours of antibiotic eye drops and be without symptoms before returning
- **Influenza A or B** - a person with a case of influenza is required by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to be isolated for seven days following onset of illness. The recommendation to stay isolated until fever free for 24 hours is comparable to staying home for seven days.

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