

WHEN SHOULD CHILDREN STAY HOME?

As part of the Olympia School Districts commitment to maintaining a healthy environment, the following guidelines are provided to assist you in determining when to keep your child at home.

WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME:	WHEN TO RETURN TO SCHOOL:
Fever Over 100.4 Degrees	Students should stay home until they have been fever free for 24 hours. Temperature under 100.4 degrees, WITHOUT medications to reduce fever (e.g. Tylenol, Advil, etc.) for 24 hours.
Diarrhea or Vomiting	Students should stay home until 24 hours after diarrhea and/or vomiting stops.
Rashes	Students with a bothersome body rash should stay home, especially if the student also has a fever and is itching. Some rashes may spread to other students and should be checked by a health care provider.
Appearance/Behavior	Students should stay home if they are unusually tired, pale, have no appetite or are confused.
Bad cold and/or cough	Coughing can be a real distraction to the class if cough is severe. Students need to be able to cover their cough to be at school. If a cough persists for more than 2 weeks, the student may need to be seen by a health care provider.
Eyes	If there is drainage, vision changes and/or redness of the eyelid, itching, pain or sensitivity to light this could be “pink eye” (conjunctivitis) and the student should be checked by a health care provider and can return to school with a doctor’s note or 24 hours after starting antibiotic treatment.
Other Communicable Illnesses	Please check with your school nurse if your student has a communicable illness (lice, scabies, strep throat, etc.) for when your student is able to return to school.
Injury/Surgery	Students who are unable to concentrate due to pain or pain medication should stay home. If a student is unable to participate in PE or recess a doctor’s note is required.

These guidelines were adapted from the OSPI Infectious Disease Guidelines for School Staff, 2014 and Seattle Public Schools. These guidelines are meant to help decrease illness so your children can be in the best environment for learning. Contact your child’s school nurse if you have any questions. Working together we can prevent the spread of illness and keep everyone healthy. Remember – handwashing is the single most important thing we can do to prevent the spread of illness.

Thank you.
The Olympia School Nurses