

When to Keep Your Child Home

Dear parent or guardian:

Keep your child home if they:

- Are too sick to participate in normal activities.
- Need a level of care or observation not manageable at school or childcare.
- Create an unhealthy or unsafe environment for others.

Some conditions **require** you to keep your child home. They include, but are not limited to:

Chickenpox (varicella)	Keep your child home until all blisters have scabs and no new blisters are forming.
Diarrhea	Keep your child home from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• School until diarrhea can be contained and they can participate in normal activities.• Childcare until they have had less than 3 episodes of diarrhea in the last 24 hours.
Fever	Keep your child home until their temperature is below 100.4°F and they don't have behavior changes, sore throat, rash, vomiting, diarrhea, earache, irritability or confusion.
Flu (influenza)	Keep your child home until they are fever-free for 24 hours.
Impetigo	Keep your child home until they have taken antibiotics for 24 hours.
MRSA	Keep your child home until drainage can be contained with a dry, clean dressing.
Measles	Keep your child home until 5 days after rash appeared.
Mumps	Keep your child home until 5 days after swelling began.
Ringworm	Keep your child home until treatment is started.
Scabies	Keep your child home until treatment is completed.
Scarlet fever	Keep your child home until they have taken antibiotics for 24 hours and are fever-free.
Shingles	Keep your child home until rash can be covered or all lesions have crusted.
Skin infection	Keep your child home until drainage can be contained with a dry, clean dressing.
Strep throat	Keep your child home until they have taken antibiotics for 24 hours and are fever-free.
Vomiting	Keep your child home until they have not vomited for 24 hours and they can participate in normal activities.
Whooping cough (pertussis)	Keep your child home until they have taken antibiotics for 5 full days.
Other contagious condition	Check with your child's school, childcare or primary care provider or call the Health Department at (253) 798-6410.

The following conditions **don't** require you to keep your child home (unless they are too sick to participate in normal activities).

- Bronchitis
- Cold (without fever)
- Cytomegalovirus (CMV)
- Ear infection
- Fifth disease
- Hand, foot and mouth disease
- Molluscum contagiosum
- Mononucleosis
- Pinworm
- Pneumonia
- Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)
- Warts

The Health Department, primary care providers, schools or childcares may make exceptions to these exclusion requirements on a case-by-case basis.