

The Villages® Charter School

Should I Send My Child To School Or Not When He/She Is Sick

Parents, we understand that making a decision to send your sick child to school can be difficult. When you are trying to decide, please refer to the guidelines below to help you.

Should I send my child to School:

- If your child has any of the following symptoms, they should **probably go** to school:

- Sniffles, a runny nose and a mild cough without a fever (this could be an allergic response to dust, pollen or seasonal changes)
- Vague complaints of aches, pains or fatigue
- Single episode of diarrhea or vomiting without any other symptoms

Should I keep my child at Home:

- If your child has any of the following symptoms, **please keep your child at home** or make appropriate child care arrangements:

- **APPEARANCE, BEHAVIOR** - unusually tired, pale, lack of appetite, difficult to wake, confused or irritable. This is sufficient reason to exclude a child.
- **EYES** - thick mucus or pus draining from the eye or pink eye. (With pink eye (conjunctivitis) you may see a white or yellow discharge, matted eyelids after sleep, eye pain and/or redness.)
- **FEVER** - temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. Remember that a child must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.
- **GREENISH NOSE DISCHARGE AND/OR CHRONIC COUGH** - should be seen by a healthcare provider. These conditions may be contagious and require treatment.
- **SORE THROAT** - especially with fever or swollen glands in the neck. (With Strep throat, the child may return to school after 24 hours on antibiotics.)
- **DIARRHEA** - three (3) or more watery stools in a 24 hour period, especially if the child acts or looks ill.
- **VOMITING** - vomiting two (2) or more times within the past 24 hours.
- **RASH** - body rash, especially with fever or itching. (Heat rashes and allergic reactions are not contagious).
- **EAR INFECTIONS WITHOUT FEVER** - do not need to be excluded, but the child needs to get medical treatment and follow-up. Untreated ear infections can cause permanent hearing loss.
- **LICE, SCABIES** - children may not return to school until they have been treated and are free of lice and nits (eggs).
- **CHICKEN POX** - children must stay at home for five (5) days after the onset of blisters, or until all pox are scabbed over and dry.

Should your child develop any of the symptoms above, he/she will be sent home.

* Bringing a child to school with any of the above symptoms puts other children and staff at risk of getting sick.

* If all parents keep their sick children at home, we will have stronger, healthier and happier children and staff.

* While we regret any inconvenience this may cause, in the long run this means fewer lost work days and less illness for parents.