

How Long Must My Child Stay Home When Sick?



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Summary: All children will get sick at some point. With certain conditions, your child must stay home from school until better.

If your child has been diagnosed with any of these conditions, your child will need to stay home...

Chickenpox

- For mild illness (low fever, less than 30 spots) – no exclusion as long as your child is well enough to participate normally in all activities; for moderate to severe illness (fever over 38.5°C and/or many new spots) – until five days after onset of rash.

Diarrhea

- Until 24 hours after stools are formed. This may vary depending on cause of illness and the way the disease is spread.

Fifth's disease (aka "Slapped Cheek")

- Until your child is feeling well enough to participate normally in all activities (no need to stay away from others).
- Exclusion is not required because no longer contagious once rash appears.

Hand/Foot/Mouth disease

- Until your child is feeling well enough to participate normally in all activities. Those with mouth sores or oozing lesions should stay away from others.

Impetigo

- Until the antibiotic prescribed by a doctor has been taken for at least 24hrs or until sores are completely scabbed over.

Measles

- For at least four days after the rash appears

Pink-eye

- Until the antibiotic prescribed by a doctor has been taken for at least 24hrs.

Rubella (German Measles)

- Until at least seven days after the rash first appears.

Strep Throat

- Until the antibiotic prescribed by a doctor has been taken for at least 24hrs.

Whooping Cough (Pertussis)

- Until antibiotic treatment has been taken for at least five days. If no treatment is given, wait three weeks from onset of illness.

Keep your child home and away from others if he or she has any of these symptoms:

- Fever
- Head/neck symptoms: Sore throat; Yellow or green discharge from the nose, ears or eyes
- Respiratory: Frequent coughing or sneezing
- Gastrointestinal: Vomiting, Diarrhea
- Skin symptoms: Rash

Contact your family doctor for diagnosis. He or she will advise you about care and treatment if a communicable disease is diagnosed.

For Those in the County of Stormont, Dundas Glengarry (in Ontario, Canada)

Contact the Eastern Ontario Health Unit at 613-933-1375 or at 1 800 267-7120 and ask for the Health Line, or visit www.eohu.ca.

About this Article

Written by the experts at the Eastern Ontario Health Unit, Cornwall, Ontario, www.eohu.ca.

Disclaimer

Information in this fact sheet may or may not apply to your child. Your health care provider is the best source of information about your child's health.

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