

The Public School of Brookline
Brookline School Health Services

WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME

Parents frequently ask for guidelines for when to keep their children home with illnesses.

In general we follow these guidelines to help sick individuals recover more quickly and minimize the spread of illness. Please reinforce proper cough etiquette (into bended elbow) and hand-washing at home.

COLD (Upper Respiratory Illness): If your child has a constant runny nose and lots of sneezing and coughing, please keep your child home until these symptoms lessen, usually 24 to 48 hours. Children with mild cold symptoms may attend school.

FEVER: If your child has a temperature above 100 degrees (off medication), keep your child home until 24 hours after the temperature returns to normal of medications that reduce fevers.

VOMITING AND/OR DIARRHEA: If your child has vomiting or diarrhea, keep your child home until 24 hours after the last episode.

CHICKEN POX: Vaccinated children have a small chance of having "break through" Chicken Pox. Notify your primary care provider if your child has chicken pox and let the school nurse know as well. For a suspected case of Chicken Pox, keep your child home until all the scabs are crusty and dry or there has been a medical diagnosis of another cause of the rash.

TAKING MEDICATION: When your primary care provider prescribes antibiotics for
Strep Throat
Bacterial Conjunctivitis
Impetigo

keep your child at home until s/he has taken at least 24 hours of medication. Call the school nurse before your child returns to school.

RASH: If your child has a undiagnosed rash, please see your pediatrician to say they may attend school. If your child is taking benadryl they may not attend school due to sedating effects.

SKIN FUNGUS: If your child has a skin fungus (ringworm), keep your child home and contact your primary care provider. Your child may return to school if the ringworm is small and in a covered area. For exposed ringworm, your child may return to school after 24 hours of using the recommended medication, with the affected area covered if possible.

ORAL SURGERY: Please wait to bring your child to school after oral surgery until bleeding is at a minimum, student can manage oral secretions and pain is at a tolerable level.

When calling your child absent for school, please give the specific reason for illness absences. It helps to surveil for numbers/types of illness and subsequently impacts decisions and needs at the school.

Thank you