

## Managing Illness: When should a student stay home from school?



Effective December 2010

### In Summary

a child must be kept at home (or taken home) when he/she:

- Is suffering from one or more of the identified symptoms; or
- Is not well enough to take part in their regular school program; or
- Is requiring a greater need for care than the staff can provide without compromising the safety of the student or other students (i.e. during a pandemic).

### Resources:

Canadian Pediatric Society, Wellbeings, 2nd ed. 1999,

<http://www.hls.gov.bc.ca/publications/year/2003/com018.pdf>

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**PRINCE CHARLES EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTRE**  
1075 WELLINGTON AVENUE,  
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA  
R3E 0J7

TELEPHONE: (204) 788-0203  
FAX: (204) 772-3911

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## Managing Illness: Making the right call when your child/ a student is not well

### Keep your child home or send the student home if he/she has:

Our schools must consider not only the health of the individual student, but also the health of the other students and staff.

Students who return to the school setting while they are still ill present an unsafe situation for others in the school and may result in lost school time for other students and staff.

Generally, the student may return to school when he/she is free of signs of illness. However, there may be times when it is necessary to seek medical attention. Call your health care provider, Health Links or the school's Public Health Nurse if you have questions regarding a specific condition.

- Pain - any complaints of unexplained or undiagnosed pain (earache, headache, stomachache, etc).
- A common cold with listlessness, runny nose and eyes, Coughing and sore throat. Once the child's temperature, energy and well being have returned to normal, they may be able to return to school even though runny nose and coughing may persist.
- Unexplained difficulty in breathing - wheezing or a persistent cough.
- Fever (100 ° F/38.3° C or more) accompanied by general symptoms such as listlessness or sluggishness may be an early sign of an illness that requires a doctor's attention.
- Sore throat or trouble swallowing

- Infected skin or eyes (with discharge), or an undiagnosed rash.
- Headache and stiff neck (should see their health care provider).
- Unexplained diarrhea or loose stools. Diarrhea means a change in their normal pattern of bowel movements. These symptoms may indicate a bacterial or viral gastrointestinal infection which is very easily passed from one person to another via the fecal-oral route. The student should be kept home until all symptoms have stopped for 24 hours.
- Nausea and vomiting (2 or more episodes)