



St. Mary's Primary School  
106 Washington Street  
Taunton, MA 02780 Telephone  
508-822-9480  
[www.stmarystaunton.com](http://www.stmarystaunton.com)

## *Guidelines for Keeping Children Home from School Due to Illness*

Many parents ask, "When is my child sick enough to stay home from school?" This is not always an easy question to answer! We hope that these guidelines can help!

A child who is sick will not be able to perform well in school and is likely to spread the illness to other children and staff. We suggest making a plan for childcare ahead of time so you will not be caught without a comforting place for your child to stay if he/she is ill.

Please keep your child home if they present with any of the symptoms below. Your child **must** remain home until they are symptom free for 24 hours with no medications needed for any symptoms.

- **Fever of 100.0 or higher**
- **Diarrhea**
- **Vomiting**

**Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye):** A child should be excluded for bacterial conjunctivitis (red eyes, green or yellow discharge) they may return after treatment has started.

- **Impetigo:** Exclude until 24 hours after treatment has begun.
- **Pediculosis (Head Lice):** Children should be sent home upon diagnosis and treated immediately. The child cannot return to school until there are no nits present. An additional treatment is needed 7 to 10 days later to kill the eggs that have hatched. Using a nit comb is the most effective way to remove lice.
- **Pertussis: (Whooping Cough)** Children should be excluded until five days of appropriate antibiotic has been completed or until local health department states patient is non-infectious.
- **Rash:** unexplained with or without fever.
- **Streptococcal pharyngitis (Strep Throat),** excluded until 24 hours after treatment has been begun.
- **Tuberculosis:** Tuberculosis (TB) Exclude until the child's physician or local health department authority states the child is non-infectious.
- **Varicella-zoster (Chicken pox):** Exclude until all the lesions have dried and formed scabs, usually within six days of onset of rash.

If your child becomes ill at school and the school nurse feels the child is too sick to benefit from school or is he/she is contagious to other children, you will be contacted to pick them up from school. Depending on the illness, further medical assessment or intervention may be required. Therefore it is essential that the school has a current phone number to reach you during the day, and an emergency number in the event that you cannot be reached. Please be sure that arrangements can be made to transport your child home from school within a timely manner of being notified by the school. If your daytime or emergency phone number changes during the year, please notify us immediately.