

Keeping a Child Home Due to Illness

It's hard sometimes to decide whether to send your children to school when they don't feel well. Illness is very seldom convenient! As busy parents, you have to consider work schedules, childcare arrangements, transportation and other family matters in that decision, and of course, you want what is best for your child's health.

It's also not easy to achieve a balance between reinforcing the importance of being at school and having the best attendance possible, and making a good parent decision that your child will not be able to be "in attention" at school today because of illness. That's especially hard when you have those great "high-achievers" who don't want to miss a day. But balance is what being a good parent is all about!

We all realize that good attendance is extremely important to your child's success at school! They must be here to learn. There are also important health reasons for keeping your child home from school, so here are some helpful guidelines to consider when you hear those words, "I feel sick; I don't want to go to school today." The guidelines were developed from Texas laws requiring exclusion for contagious diseases that could be spread at school, and must be enforced for the comfort and safety of all our students.

Children Who Have the Following Symptoms Cannot Attend School:

- *Fever of 100.4 or greater:* students must have a fever lower than 100.4 for 24 hours without medication before returning to school
- *Vomiting:* if vomiting occurs more than once in a day, or is associated with fever, students must stay home
- *Skin rash:* when accompanied by fever (contact the school nurse with questions about skin rashes)