

When Should I Keep my Child Home from School?

Deciding when to keep a child home from school can be difficult. It is the goal of the OLSH administration, faculty, and staff to create and maintain a healthy and safe school environment. In order to protect your child and all of our students, we ask that you abide by the following recommendations.

Please keep your child home if he or she:

- Has a **fever** of 100 degrees or higher. Students must be fever-free for at least 24 hours (without the aid of Tylenol, Motrin, or Advil) before they may return to school.
- Has **vomited** in the last 24 hours.
- Has had **diarrhea** in the last 24 hours.
- Has **red, swollen eyes** that itch and are draining or have a crust appearance upon awakening. These can be symptoms of pink eye.
- Have a productive **cough** that cannot be controlled with medication.
- Has been diagnosed with **strep throat**. Students must be on antibiotics for 24 hours before they are able to return to school.
- Has been diagnosed with a **communicable illness***, such as chickenpox, impetigo, scabies, lice, and/or ringworm. Students will need a doctor's note to return to school.

If you are unsure about whether or not to keep your child home, please consult a physician.

*Communicable Illnesses

The Pennsylvania Department of Health offers the following guidelines and exclusion periods for communicable diseases:

Pink Eye: Your child should remain home from school until receiving 24 hours of antibiotic therapy and discharge from the eyes has stopped.

Chicken Pox: Your child should remain home until all blisters have scabbed over, usually 5-7 days after the appearance of the first crop of blisters.

Head Lice: Following lice infestations, your child may return to school after receiving treatment with a pediculicide shampoo, nits have been removed, and the student has been check and cleared by the school nurse.

Impetigo, Scabies, Ringworm: Your child should remain home until they obtain a note from a physician who judges them to be non-infectious.