

## When to keep a student home from school

Forest Hills Public School District realizes the pressures parents face as they balance work and other commitments with caring for their ill children. The Kent County Health Department, MDHHS and MDE have provided the following guidelines to help parents determine when it's safe to send your child(ren) back into the learning environment and when they need to remain at home to continue recovering.

The following is a list of signs and symptoms that should serve as attendance exclusion criteria. Students should be kept home from school and parents are advised to contact their medical provider if needed:

- **Fever:** A student should stay home if their temperature is 101 degrees or more. Students must be fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication before returning to school. If your child has a lower fever, but is not feeling well enough to participate in school, they should stay home.
- **Diarrhea:** A student has two loose or watery stools. The student should have no loose stools for 24 hours prior to returning to school.
- **Vomiting:** A student that has vomited two or more times. The student should have no vomiting episodes for 24 hours prior to returning.
- **Respiratory/Cough** A student that has persistent cough or difficulty breathing. Green or Yellow nasal drainage, sore throat lasting longer than a few days.
- **Rash:** The student with a rash AND has a fever or a change in behavior. Exclude until the rash subsides or until a healthcare provider has determined it is not infectious. A student with weeping sores on an exposed area that cannot be covered with waterproof dressing should also stay home.
- **Abdominal pain:** A student with abdominal pain that continues for more than two hours, or intermittent pain associated with fever or other symptoms.
- **Other:** Unusual tiredness, lethargic or a headache that prevents a student from normal activities are reasons to consider keeping a child home.
- **Certain communicable diseases:** Students and staff diagnosed with certain communicable diseases may need to be excluded for a period of time as determined by MDHHS and MDE. Some examples of these are: whooping cough, measles, chicken pox, hand foot and mouth disease, & bacterial pink eye.

For additional questions or concerns please contact your student's school.

Please Note: Due to school reporting requirements to the Kent County Health Department, When contacting the attendance office please provide details on your child's specific symptoms and the reason for their absence.