



## WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME

Sheboygan Area School District

Your child's school attendance is important to us! Not only are there laws governing your child's attendance, but also their schoolwork, attitude and social development may be affected by attendance. Use your own judgement and remember that sick children should be home; well children should be at school.

The following are guidelines to assist parents in making an informed decision whether to send a child to school or keep him/her at home. The information below is NOT intended as medical advice – it is designed to provide guidelines to be followed until your doctor can be reached for medical advice. Your doctor should be consulted regarding any childhood illnesses.

**Fever:** A fever is a warning sign that there is an infection in the body. A child with a temperature above 101° Fahrenheit must stay home to care for their illness as well as avoid putting others at risk. Children should stay home until they have been without a fever associated with behavioral changes or other signs of illness, without the use of fever-reducing medication. If the fever continues or your child has other symptoms, such as a stiff neck, severe headache, sore throat, ear pain, an unexplained rash, or repeated vomiting or diarrhea, contact your child's doctor.

**Stomach ache:** Call your doctor if your child has a stomach ache that is continuous, of sudden onset, limits his/her activity, is accompanied by a fever, lasts for more than 2 hours, or if your child has other signs or symptoms.

**Vomiting:** If vomiting occurs 2 or more times within a 24 hour period, is green or bloody, is accompanied by a fever and/or the vomiting is not from a known condition, keep your child home until he/she can keep food and liquids down and vomiting has resolved. Call your doctor if your child does not improve or if symptoms get worse.

**Diarrhea:** Diarrhea is defined as two or more loose/watery stools (above their normal) in 24 hours. Call your doctor if there are changes in how your child is behaving, if there is blood in his/her stool, or if your child does not improve or if symptoms get worse.

**Colds:** Common colds are an everyday part of life for children. However, if the child is unable to participate and staff members determine that they cannot care for the child without compromising their ability to care for the health and safety of the other children in the group, the child will be sent home. If your child complains of a sore throat and has no other symptoms, he/she may go to school. If white spots can be seen in the back of the throat, if a fever is present with a sore throat, or if the sore throat lasts longer than two days, keep your child home and call your doctor.

**Headache:** A headache alone is generally not a reason to keep a child home from school. If the headache is severe, causing vomiting, or is following a fall or other head injury, call your doctor immediately.

**Rash:** A rash may be the first sign of an illness. A rash or spots may cover your child's entire body or may appear in only one area. Do not send a child with a rash to school if the rash is accompanied by a fever or behavioral changes, or until your doctor has said it is safe to do so. Any open or oozing wounds should be covered. School personnel are not allowed to diagnose a rash. Also, make sure your child's immunizations are up to date.

### **Please note:**

- Medication can only be given at school after the appropriate medication authorization forms have been completed. Please ask your school office for forms if needed.
- Contact your school nurse if a health condition is affecting your child's attendance.