

Guidance for Parents - Common Conditions Causing Illness

Whether you send your child to school will depend on how severe you think the illness is. Remember: if you're concerned about your child's health, consult a health professional.

•**Cough and cold.** A child with a minor cough or cold may attend school. If the cold is accompanied by a raised temperature, shivers or drowsiness, the child should stay off school, visit the GP and return to school 24 hours after they start to feel better. If your child has a more severe and long-lasting cough, consult your GP. They can give guidance on whether your child should stay off school.

•**Raised temperature.** If your child has a raised temperature, they shouldn't attend school. They can return 24 hours after they start to feel better.

•**Rash.** Skin rashes can be the first sign of many infectious illnesses, such as chickenpox and measles. Children with these conditions shouldn't attend school. If your child has a rash, check with your GP or practice nurse before sending them to school.

•**Headache.** A child with a minor headache doesn't usually need to be kept off school. If the headache is more severe or is accompanied by other symptoms, such as raised temperature or drowsiness, then keep the child off school and consult your GP.

•**Vomiting and diarrhoea.** Children with diarrhoea and/or vomiting should definitely be kept off school until at least 48 hours after their symptoms have gone. Most cases of diarrhoea and vomiting in children get better without treatment, but if symptoms persist, consult your GP.

•**Sore throat.** A sore throat alone doesn't have to keep a child from school. But if it's accompanied by a raised temperature, your child should stay at home.

•**Chickenpox.** If your child has chickenpox, keep them off school until all their spots have crusted over.

Additional guidance can be found at:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Yourchildatschool/Pages/Illness.aspx>.