

Saint Mary School Nurse's Notes

Whether To Send Your Child To School Or Not:

Here are some things to consider before making that decision:

1. Depending on the complaint, check your child's temperature. A temperature of 100.0 or higher indicates your child is not well. Your child should stay home so you can monitor how the child feels. The school policy regarding returning to school is that a child should be **fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.**
2. Upset stomach. This is the most difficult one to consider. Look at the skin color, is your child pale, did the child eat breakfast, was the child rushing? My recommendation is if your child has been vomiting then the child can return to school **24 hours after a vomiting episode** and if the child has consumed a meal with no further vomiting afterward.
3. Rashes. **Rashes of unknown origin**, especially if accompanied by a fever, need to be checked by your child's doctor.
4. Drainage from the eyes. **Conjunctivitis** is quite contagious when untreated. If your child has red itchy eyes with drainage, the doctor should be called and the child checked to see if they have conjunctivitis. The policy is that a child can return to school after being treated for this diagnosis with **antibiotics for 24 hours** and the symptoms subside. If the child has copious amounts of drainage coming from his or her eyes it would be best to keep them home an additional day until the drainage stops.
5. Likewise, the policy regarding **strep** is that a child can return to school after being treated for this diagnosis with **antibiotics for at least 24 hours.**

The above five health concerns seem to be the most common. You may call the nurse with any questions at 438-7288, ext.253. Please notify the school if your child is absent.

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