

## Healthy Attendance



### *Missed Days Add Up Quickly!*

- Both excused and unexcused absences will make it more difficult for your child to keep up with school work, especially in math and reading.
- Even missing 5-10 days of school (excused or unexcused) can negatively impact a student's academics.
- Missing school during the early elementary years makes it more difficult for children to learn in later years.
- Students with chronic absences show lower academic growth in later grades and can be behind their peers in literary and math skills.
- Some students with chronic absences are more likely to be retained in later school years.
- There are strong links between good attendance and high school graduation rates.
- Whether absences are due to illness or another reason, the end result for the student is the same... learning time is lost!

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### *Helpful Suggestions!*

- Make appointments with the doctor or dentist in late afternoon so that your child misses as little school as possible.
- If your child must miss school, make sure you get his or her homework assignments and follow up to see if the work is completed and turned in to the teachers.
- Call the school as soon as you know your child will be absent and tell the school staff why your child will be out and for how long.
- Also, submit official medical appointment documentation so the absence can be coded correctly.
- Please inform teachers of any changes in home or work telephone numbers. If you are not able to pick up your child, list another adult as an emergency contact if your child is sick or injured at school.

***For more information, contact your school nurse, school counselor or***



**DAVIDSON COUNTY  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
Protecting, Caring, Serving Our County

## Make Every Day Count!



## Healthy Attendance

*Your future. Our focus.*



**DAVIDSON**  
COUNTY SCHOOLS

# When Should I Send My Child to School?



## Symptoms and illness... Should my child go to school?

**Parent is sick, stressed, hospitalized... Yes** – If you are sick, your child still needs to attend school. Your illness does not excuse your child from attending. Excused and unexcused absences represent lost time in the classroom and lost opportunities to learn.

**Child doesn't want to go to school... Yes** – These concerns should be addressed with the school staff.

**Cold symptoms/seasonal allergies with stuffy nose/runny nose, sneezing, mild cough... Yes** – If your child is able to participate in school activities send him or her to school.

**Menstrual cycle issues.. Yes** – Most of the time menstrual cycle (period) issues should not be a problem. If they are severe and interfering with your daughter attending school, consult with healthcare provider.

**Fever (oral temperature 100 degrees or higher)... No** – Child must be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to school and without the use of fever-reducing medications.

**Diarrhea (frequent, loose, or watery stools)... No** – If your child has 2 or more loose stools during the night or in the early morning and he/she has a fever and/or vomiting, he/she should not attend school. Child may return to school after 24 hours if no further nausea or vomiting or diarrhea has occurred.

**Vomiting (2 or more times in a 24 hour period)... No** – Keep your child home until the vomiting has stopped for 24 hours.

**Severe coughing (uncontrolled, rapid coughing, wheezing or difficulty breathing)... No** – Keep your child home and contact a healthcare provider. If symptoms are due to asthma, provide treatment according to your child's Asthma/Healthcare Plan and when symptoms are controlled, send your child to school.

**Rash or skin sores... No** – If a rash spreads quickly, is not healing or is oozing, contact healthcare provider.

**Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)... No** - If there is significant drainage from the eye or if it is matted, the child should stay home and see their healthcare provider.

## Work with Your Child & Your School

- If your child has a chronic disease/illness, make sure that the school staff is aware of your child's medical condition so that the staff can assist him/her when sick. The chronic disease/illness information should be noted on the school emergency/healthcare plan.
- Keep an open line of communication with school staff, teachers, and school nurse. The more the school knows about your child's health, the better prepared everyone will be to work together to care for your child.
- Ask for a note from your child's healthcare provider to present to the school staff when he/she is seen for an illness.



## Common Contagious Conditions:

**Chickenpox** – See healthcare provider and stay out of school for at least the first five days or until the last pox has dried.

**Fifth Disease** – May attend school with rash if child feels well. Please inform the teacher if your child's doctor has made this diagnosis.

**Live Head Lice** – May return to school the following day if treated and no more live bugs are present. Students with only nits may remain at school, but the parent will be notified and encouraged to remove remaining nits when the student returns home.

**Ringworm** – If ringworm is located on the skin and treated by over-the-counter ointment, student can return to school 24 hours after treatment begins. Ringworm on the scalp must be treated by a healthcare provider.