



Health Services: Sick Day Exclusions

For symptoms and illnesses not listed here, school nurses will refer to the most recent version of the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) [Communicable Disease Chart for Alabama's Schools and Childcare Facilities](#).

SYMPTOMS:	DOES YOUR CHILD NEED TO BE HOME?
FEVER: body temperature greater than 101°F (38.3°C)	YES – stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever has gone . Must be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.
RASH WITH FEVER OR BEHAVIORAL CHANGES	YES – until a healthcare provider determines that the illness is not a communicable disease. <i>*Exception is a new, rapidly spreading rash that resembles bruising or small, red, or purple “blood spots.” In this case, call 911.</i>
SKIN SORES: any open wound, draining and weeping fluid	YES – if sore is located on an exposed part of the body that cannot be covered with a waterproof bandage.
ABDOMINAL PAIN	YES – if pain continues for more than 2 hours, or abdominal pain comes and goes along with fever or other concerning symptoms.
MOUTH SORES accompanied by drooling that child cannot control	YES – until a healthcare provider determines that child is non-infectious.
SIGNS OF SEVERE ILLNESS such as being unresponsive, irritable, crying more than usual, difficulty breathing, or quickly spreading rash.	YES – recommendations from healthcare provider indicated.
BEHAVIORAL CHANGES: any change in baseline behavior (level of consciousness or awareness) preventing student's usual participation in typical school activities. Change in baseline Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) measured by eye, motor, and verbal response.	YES – recommendations from healthcare provider indicated.
RESPIRATORY VIRUSES such as COVID and Flu: fever, chills, cough, fatigue, headache, runny nose, sore throat	Return to school, when, for at least 24 hours: 1. Symptoms are improving overall AND 2. No fever without use of fever-reducing medications.
OTHER: Child may be excluded for any symptom(s) that school nurse determines requires further evaluation based on 1) ability of child to comfortably participate in school activities, 2) need for higher level of care than school and staff can safely provide, or 3) poses a risk of spread of harmful disease to others based on any criteria found at references below.	

REFERENCES:

Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH). (2023 October). [Communicable Disease Chart for Alabama's Schools and Childcare Facilities](#)

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). (2022 December). [When to Keep Your Child Home](#).

Centers for Disease Control (CDC). (2024 March). [Preventing Spread of Respiratory Viruses When You're Sick](#).