

Too sick for school?



Think Pharmacy First.
Ask Your Pharmacist.

While this information has been checked by a pharmacist, it is a guide only.

Ask yourself:

- ◆ Is my child well enough to comfortably take part in the day's activities?
- ◆ Will my child pass on their illness to other children or staff?
- ◆ Will my child's teacher be able to care for my child without it impacting on their ability to care for other children?
- ◆ If I felt like this, would I go to work?

If you are unsure, speak to your pharmacist or doctor for advice.








Go to school



Could be catchy. Some restrictions for school




Don't go to school








Symptom	What to consider	Go to school?	Treatment
Fever	Children and older infants with a temperature of 38.5° or more		Give plenty of fluids and stay home until temperature is normal. Your pharmacist can provide advice on the most appropriate analgesic and formulation for your child. If your child seems worse or there's no improvement in 48 hours, see a doctor or visit the hospital.
Diarrhoea	If your child has 2 or more consecutive bowel motions that are loose or watery. They may also have stomach cramps.		Diarrhoea is a fairly common problem that usually lasts only a day or two. Diarrhoea must be monitored as it can cause dehydration which is potentially very dangerous in children. Your pharmacist can provide advice on the most appropriate treatment for an upset tummy, including advising on oral rehydration salt formulations. They can refer you to a doctor if more treatment is needed or the hospital for severe diarrhoea.
Vomiting	If your child has vomited more than twice in 24 hours.		Watch for signs of dehydration and encourage small amounts of fluid frequently. Your pharmacist can provide advice on oral rehydration salt formulations and can refer you to a doctor if more treatment is needed or the hospital for severe vomiting.
Cough	This will depend on the severity of the cough. Trouble breathing, wheezing or a harsh cough can be the sign of something more serious such as bronchitis, pneumonia or whooping cough.		If your child has a severe cough, take them to see a doctor. If the cough is not severe your pharmacist can help you to identify whether your child has a 'productive' or 'dry' cough and a suitable treatment for them.
Rash	A skin rash could indicate a contagious infection such as chicken pox or impetigo.		A doctor should evaluate your child before sending them to school.

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Red eyes	Is the eye red and watery? The eyelids may also stick together on waking. This could be conjunctivitis which is highly contagious.		Unless your doctor has diagnosed a non-infectious cause, keep your child home from school while there is discharge from the eye and speak to your pharmacist about a suitable product.
Stomach ache	This can often be hard for you to judge as it could be caused by a number of things including constipation and even anxiety. If there are no other symptoms such as vomiting or diarrhoea, you might consider sending the child to school.		You might ask your child if there is anything making him or her sad or worried.
Sore throat	A sore throat and runny nose, but no other symptoms.		You can also speak to your pharmacist about products suited to your child's age to help relieve a stuffy nose and soothe their sore throat.
Earache	Evaluate along with other symptoms, such as a fever. Common conditions of the ear include infection, inflammation and wax build up and some of these can be quite painful and uncomfortable.		Your pharmacist can provide advice on treatment options and refer you to a doctor where necessary.
Runny nose	A runny nose, but otherwise fine.		Speak to your community pharmacist about whether there is a suitable product, such as a chestrub and nasal relief product to help ease your child's stuffy nose.
Itchy scalp	Head lice can cause intense itching. They live and breed on the scalp and are easily passed from student to student.		Your local pharmacy will stock special combs as well as shampoos, cream and other products which contain a special insecticide.
Hay Fever	Some of the symptoms can include sneezing; a runny or stuffy nose; itchy ears, nose and throat; red, itchy or watery eyes and headaches.		Your pharmacist can help you choose the best medicine for your child's symptoms. This may be a nasal spray, eye drop or oral antihistamines. Some of these medications should not be taken with other medications.

Medical Action Plans

Asthma	Your child has been diagnosed with asthma.		Provide the school with your child's Asthma Action Plan and follow the school's policies with regards to medicine storage. Your pharmacist can also help ensure your child's asthma inhaler technique is correct.
Anaphylaxis	Your child has been diagnosed with anaphylaxis.		Provide the school with your child's Anaphylaxis Action Plan and follow the school's policies with regards to medicine storage.
Diabetes	Your child has been diagnosed with diabetes.		Most students with diabetes can participate fully in school activities. Make sure the school has your child's updated management plan. Speak to your pharmacist to make sure you (and your child if they are old enough) understand how to test their blood sugar; how to manage insulin levels and how to treat high and low blood sugar levels.

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