



Parents of children who attend child care centers sometimes have difficulty deciding when a child's health requires that he/she remain at home. Parents don't want to keep children at home if they really are not sick, but they also don't want to send a sick child to the Center.

The following guidelines will help you determine whether or not your child should be attending child care. The second page is a copy of the form you will receive if your child becomes ill at the center and is sent home. Thank you for helping us provide a healthier environment for our children and staff.

CHILDREN WITH THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS SHOULD BE KEPT AT HOME:

FEVER: (OVER 101 DEGREES)

- May return 24 hours AFTER temperature returns to normal, without medication.

VOMITING: (Repeated)

- May return 24 hours AFTER vomiting stops, without the use of medication.

DIARRHEA: (2 - 3 loose, watery or explosive stools not related to digestion)

- May return 24 hours AFTER loose stools have stopped without the use of special diet (unless related to digestion) or medication.

COLD SYMPTOMS: (Yellow/green discharge for the nose/eyes, persistent cough with or without yellow/green mucous production)

- May return AFTER symptoms have ceased and drainage/mucous is clear.

CONJUNCTIVITIS: (Pink Eye)

- May return 24 hours AFTER 1st dose of medication and drainage is no longer present or with a physician's statement that the child is not contagious.

STREP THROAT:

- May return after a MINIMUM of 24 hours AFTER medication starts and free from fever.

CHICKEN POX:

- May return when the lesions have crusted, usually 5 - 7 days.

EAR INFECTIONS:

- May return AFTER treated by a physician, medication started and fever free.

RASHES:

- May return with a physician's statement if it is not contagious.

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Your child _____ is being sent home on _____
at _____ a.m./p.m. with _____

A CHILD MAY RETURN TO VCDC AFTER HAVING A CONTAGIOUS DISEASE UPON BEING SYMPTOM FREE FOR 24 HOURS (WITHOUT THE AID OF MEDICATION), OR WITH A DOCTOR'S RELEASE.

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THESE ARE THE MOST COMMON ILLNESSES. IF THERE IS ANY OTHER CONTAGIOUS DISEASE AT VCDC, DISEASE FACT SHEETS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WILL BE SENT HOME WITH EXPLICIT INSTRUCTIONS ON INCUBATION PERIOD, SPREAD, AND LENGTH OF TIME YOUR CHILD MUST BE KEPT HOME.

WE AT VCDC THANK YOU FOR KEEPING ALL OF OUR CHILDREN AND STAFF HEALTHY AND HAPPY!

INITIALS: _____ DATE: _____