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|  | Sick Day Guidelines:  Making the right call  when your child is sick: |

***Should I keep my child home or send him or her to school?***

School policy (and/or state law) requires a child **stay home** if he or she:

* Has a **fever** of **100.4** degrees or higher
* Has been **vomiting** or had **diarrhea**
* Has symptoms that keep your child from participating in school, such as:
  + Very tired or poor appetite
  + Cough that he or she cannot control
  + Headache, body aches, or earache
  + Sore Throat—a little sore throat is OK for school, but a bad sore throat could be **strep throat**, even if there is no fever, Other signs of strep throat in children are a headache and stomach upset, or rash. Call your doctor if your child has these signs. A special test is needed to know if it is strep throat
* **Keep your child home if he/she is coughing or sneezing often because this spreads sickness to others.**

**24 Hour Rule:**

* **FEVER:** Keep your child home until his or her **FEVER has been gone WITHOUT medicine for 24 hours.** Colds can be contagious for at least 48 hours. Returning to school too soon may slow recovery and make others sick.
* **VOMITING OR DIARRHEA:** Keep your child home for 24 hours after the **LAST** time he or she vomited or if they are having uncontrollable diarrhea.
* **ANTIBIOTICS:** Keep your child home until 24 hours after the **FIRST dose of antibiotics** for anything like sinus infection or strep throat.

*Please help keep others from becoming sick by keeping your child home while the sickest.*

For more information, or if you have questions, please contact the School Nurse:

Amber Thompson—417-445-3535 or [athompson@halfwayschools.org](mailto:athompson@halfwayschools.org)

Visit [www.halfwayschools.org](http://www.halfwayschools.org) and click on the “Nurse’s office” tab for great health information.