How Sick Is Too Sick for School?

REPRODUCIBLE 9-2

In general, children are too sick to come to school when:

- They are contagious.
- Their symptoms are serious enough to prevent them from focusing on the tasks they need to do there.

Use this checklist to determine whether to keep your child home from school.

	YES	NO
1. Does your child have a fever of 100° or higher?	____	____
2. Has your child vomited two or more times in a 24-hour period?	____	____
3. Does your child have diarrhea?	____	____
4. Are your child's eyes crusty, bright red, and/or discharging yellow or green fluid (conjunctivitis/pink eye)?	____	____
5. If your child complains of a sore throat, is it accompanied by fever, headache, stomachache, or swollen glands?	____	____
6. If your child complains of a stomachache, is it accompanied by fever, vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, sharp pain, and/or hard belly?	____	____
7. Does your child have a persistent, phlegmy cough?	____	____
8. Does your child have lice (white, translucent eggs the size of a pinpoint on the hair or insects on the scalp)?	____	____

If you answered yes to any of these questions, please keep your child home from school and consider seeking medical attention. Your child could have a serious or contagious illness. Keep your child home until he or she has been symptom free for at least 24 hours or until the doctor indicates that he or she can return to school.

If children have a cold, headache, or stomachache that is not accompanied by fever, vomiting, or diarrhea, they can probably come to school.

If children have a rash, it could be contagious. Please seek medical advice before allowing your child to come to school.

Earaches are not contagious. Children can come to school as long as they can concentrate on their work.

Once your child has been treated for lice, he or she can return to school.