



# **St. Patrick School**

**Faith • Academics • Service**

360 Main Street • Huntington, NY 11743 • 631-385-3311

## **WHEN TO KEEP A CHILD HOME WITH ILLNESS**

Sometimes it can be difficult for a parent to decide whether to send children to school when they wake up with symptoms of an illness or complaints that they do not feel well. There are some situations in which it is best to plan on keeping your child home for a day to rest or to arrange for an appointment with your health care provider. The following are a few situations that warrant watching and possibly calling your health care provider:

- Fever greater than 100.4° orally, including a fever that requires control with medication such as Tylenol in past 24hrs.
- Child is too sleepy or had been vomiting / diarrhea in past 24hrs.
- Cough that makes a child feel uncomfortable or disrupts the class
- Sore throat that is severe along with fever and feeling ill for more than 48 hours, OR after known confirmed case of Strep throat infection(must be on ABT for 24hrs prior to returning to school)
- Honey-crusted sores around the nose or mouth or rash on other body parts; OR a rash in various stages including boils, sores and bumps that may be chicken pox; OR a significant rash accompanied by other symptoms of illness such as fever
- Red, runny eyes that distract the child from learning
- Large amount of discolored nasal discharge, especially if accompanied by facial pain or headache
- Severe ear pain or drainage from the ear
- Severe headache, especially if accompanied by fever
- Any condition that you think may be serious or contagious to others.

Whenever there is an outbreak of a specific contagious infection, the school sends out a notice to alert you to watch out for any symptoms. If you know your child is running a fever, it is not a good idea simply to give them Tylenol and send them onto school. It is better to let them stay home in bed with a fever and take their medications at home until they are off all medicines and ready to learn for a full day in a classroom. If you find a pattern of your child asking to stay home from school, especially if they are falling behind or appear anxious by the thought of attending school, or if there does not appear to be any obvious physical symptoms, it may be a good idea to contact your school nurse and your health care provider to discuss your concerns.