WHEN TO KEEP TO KEEP
A SICK CHILD AT HOME 2026-2027

Phoenix Private School, Doha – For Students and Staff

Effective Date: August 2026

Approved By: Principal & Governing Body

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Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission:
To develop future leaders who are able to make positive changes throughout the world. We challenge today to create a better tomorrow.
Vision:
To prepare a generation of Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Responsible Citizens and Effective Contributors.
Values:

- Perseverance
- Honesty
- Originality
- Enrichment
- Nurturing
- Inspiration
- eXcited to learn

When to keep a sick child at home from school

Dear Parents,
Deciding when to keep a sick child at home from school is not always easy. It's important for children to attend school and for some parents staying at home means missing work. But when a child is truly sick, they need to stay at home in the care of an adult to get well and to prevent spreading illness to others.

If a student is feeling even slightly unwell, particularly with **fever, coughing, sneezing, influenza, flu or any other symptoms relating to the respiratory system,** they should get a full examination by a doctor and receive a medical report to say they are well enough to join in-school learning and their condition will not infect others.

WHEN TO KEEP A CHILD HOME FROM SCHOOL:

DIARRHEA/VOMITING: Children who have vomited or had diarrhea should be kept at home and should return to school only after being symptom-free for 24 hours.

FEVER: Fevers are a common symptom of viral and bacterial infection. Children are likely to be contagious to others when they have a fever. Any child with a fever of 37.5°C or higher should not attend school and should not return until they have been fever free for 24 hours. A child with flu-like illness (fever and a cough) must stay home from school for at least 24 hours until they no longer have a fever or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicine.

PINK EYE (Conjunctivitis): is a common infectious disease of one or both eyes caused by several types of bacteria and viruses. The eye typically appears very red and feels irritated. There may be drainage of mucous and pus or clear liquid. Prescription medication may be needed to a treat bacterial infection. Virus-caused pink eye will not need antibiotic treatment. A child with the above symptoms should be kept at home until evaluated by a medical provider and return to school with or without treatment depending on the diagnosis.

RASHES: A rash may be one of the first signs of a contagious childhood illness such as chickenpox. Rashes may cover the entire body or be in only one area and are most contagious in the early stages. Do not send a child with a rash to school until a medical provider has said it is safe to do so – especially with additional symptoms like itching, fever or appearing ill.

COUGH: A child with deep or uncontrollable coughing belongs at home even without a fever. A child with cough and fever must stay home from school for at least 24 hours until they no longer have a fever or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicine.

Thank You.
School Nurse