



Attention Parents

In order to do well in school, children must attend EVERY day. Regular attendance not only helps the learning process, it also teaches important life lessons about being reliable and responsible. Sometimes, though, kids get sick and need to stay home. The Van Wert County Health Commissioner and Van Wert City School Nurses suggest the children should stay home if they:

Have a fever or rash
Cannot tolerate oral intake (vomiting)
Have a gastrointestinal upset (diarrhea)
Or
A frequent and productive cough

Your children should be fever free, without the use of fever reducing medication for at least **24 hours**, before sending them back to school. They should have no vomiting and/or diarrhea, and are able to keep fluids down for at least **24 hours** before returning to school. We also advise that your child be evaluated by a physician if the symptoms worsen or do not improve after a few days. Van Wert County Hospital's "Call a Nurse" service can assist you in making a decision about whether a child's symptoms warrant missing school. By calling their toll free number, **1-888-909-VWCH (8924)**, you can speak directly with a registered nurse 24 hours per day, seven days per week, at no cost to you.

Important

When it is necessary for your child to stay home, you **MUST** contact his/her school either in person or by phone **no later than 9:00 A.M.** Please explain why your child is missing school. (If ill, explain symptoms.) This contact is required by law and is intended to make sure that every child, who leaves home, arrives at school safely. **Even if you do not have a phone, you are still required to contact the school.** You can:

Go to a neighbor's house and use phone
Walk or drive to a pay phone
Send a note with another child
Come to school yourself or ask someone else to stop by

If you do not contact the school, the school is **required by law** to contact you. This can even involve notifying the Court's attendance office. By remembering to communicate with the school by **9:00 A.M.**, everyone will know that your child is safe, **AND** neither the school nor juvenile court staff will have to bother you at home or work. Regular attendance at school is not only best for your child's education, it's also the law!

Children who exceed the established number of absences at their school can be referred to Juvenile Court on truancy charges, with parents cited for contributing to the unruliness of a minor.