

# Do you need a doctor's note for school?

## A doctor's note is needed in four situations

### 1. Your child is ill

As a parent, you may write a sick note yourself four times each school year. This is for a maximum of three consecutive calendar days each time.

Is your child sick more often or for longer periods? Then you need a medical certificate from a doctor.

Send the notes to the school on the day that your child returns to school. If your child stays home for more than 10 days, you must send the doctor's certificate to the school immediately.

### 2. Your child is ill during exams

For secondary education, you always need a medical certificate from a doctor. A note from the parents is not enough.

There are no set exam periods in primary education, so the normal rules apply. As a parent, you may write a sick note yourself four times each school year. This is for a maximum of three consecutive calendar days each time. Is your child sick more often or for longer periods? Then you need a medical certificate from a doctor.

### 3. Your child has fallen ill during class

Ask the head teacher or at the school secretariat if your child is on the roll call as being present. The school does roll call twice a day: once in the morning and once in the afternoon. If your child is on the roll call as being present, a note from the parents or the doctor is not necessary. If the roll call has not yet been filled in, a note is necessary.

### 4. NEW Your child has fallen ill right before or right after a school holiday

Your child always needs a medical certificate from the doctor for the week before or after a school holiday. This applies to summer holiday, autumn half term, Christmas holiday, spring half term and Easter holiday.

## Will the doctor give you a note?

- The doctor will give you a medical certificate if he or she determines that your child is ill.
- The doctor cannot give a medical certificate for an illness that has healed.
- The doctor will give you a Dixit certificate if he or she cannot diagnose anything, but your child nevertheless says that he or she is ill. A Dixit certificate is not valid for school. It is not a valid notification of an absence.

## Your child may be absent without a sick note:

- for a funeral or wedding of a close relative,
- on religious or ideological holidays observed by your child,
- for personal reasons, if you have the head teacher's permission,

- if your child is younger than five.

In these cases, you do not need a sick note for your child's school. You can read the full list in the school regulations. Do however notify the school when your child cannot go to school.

**Your child may not be absent:**

- to go on holiday,
- to go to a music festival or other event,
- because you yourself are ill.

If your child is absent from school without a valid reason, the school will follow up on your child closely. If it happens frequently, the school is required to bring in the *Centrum voor Leerlingbegeleiding* (CLB), the Pupil Guidance Centre. If that does not help, your file is sent to the Ministry for Education and Training. The Ministry can inform the public prosecutor or claim back any school subsidies paid to you.

**Would you like more information?**

- Contact the school secretariat
- Read the school regulations
- Visit [www.ond.vlaanderen.be/leerplicht](http://www.ond.vlaanderen.be/leerplicht)
- Send an email to [spijbelen@vlaanderen.be](mailto:spijbelen@vlaanderen.be)