Illness Complaints

Listen for Statements from the Student	Response Strategies
When did problem begin?	If it just started, a brief rest/some caring attention may help student to return quickly to class.
Does it come and go or is it constant?	If it is intermittent, student may be better able to return to class with some reassurance that s/he can return for help if problem gets worse.
How bad is the problem? What do you want to do?	If not said to be severe, some minor comfort measures (e.g., a drink of water, reassurance, a few minutes of rest) may help student be able to return to class. If student is unsure, student can generally return to class.
Have you had this problem before? How recently? What did you do to feel better?	If the problem is happening frequently, it suggests need for finding a cause and treatment. Using tried treatment that is appropriate at school may help student return to class.
Do your parents know about this?	If parents do not know, especially about repeated illness problems, a plan should follow for notifying them. This question often helps students share what treatment is under way or planned.
When was the last time you ate and what did you eat?	If student has not eaten and complains of headache, stomach ache, or not feeling well (and does not have a fever), this cues you to have student get something to eat promptly.

Illness Complaints are continued on the next page

Illness Complaints (continued)

Listen for Statements from the Student	Response Strategies
Have you used the bathroom today? Did you have constipation or diarrhea? Have you vomited today?	If student has a stomach ache and does not have diarrhea, nausea, or constipation, and has eaten, suggest student try to use the bathroom to see if the stomach ache is relieved. If having diarrhea at school that requires urgent bathroom breaks, student should go home until free of diarrhea for 24 hours. If vomiting at school, student should go home until free of nausea and vomiting for 24 hours.
Are there some worries you have? Problems at home or school? Is there a test today?	