

Infectious Diseases: Temporary Exclusion

Extract from Education Office Gazette 88.14.08

"Children who are unwell should not be allowed to attend school guidelines have been drawn up on the premise that children who have been ill with an infectious disease will not return to school until they have fully recovered. The only exception to this rule is that children with certain skin diseases may return once appropriate treatment has commenced."

Accordingly:

- Children contracting a communicable disease, or certain skin, hair or eye infections may be temporarily excluded.
- Parents should contact the school for conditions of exclusion. (Copy of schedule attached.)
- **COMMON INFECTIONS REQUIRING EXCLUSION**

Chicken pox, conjunctivitis (acute), glandular fever, head lice, measles and rubella (German measles), mumps, ringworm, scabies, school sores, whooping cough, human parvovirus.

Additionally:

- Education Queensland requires the school to keep an Infectious Diseases Register. Please notify the office if your child contracts an infection such as the above.

The recommended periods of exclusion from school are issued as a guide to teaching staff and may be modified in individual cases as circumstances warrant.

CONDITION	EXCLUSION OF CASES	EXCLUSION OF CONTACTS
Amoebiasis (Entamoeba histolytica)	Exclude until diarrhoea has ceased	Not excluded
Campylobacter	Exclude until diarrhoea has ceased	Not excluded
Chickenpox	Exclude until fully recovered or at least five days after the eruption first appears. Note that some remaining scabs are not a reason for continued exclusion	Any child with an immune deficiency (for example leukemia, or receiving chemotherapy) should be excluded for their own protection. Contacts otherwise not excluded.
Conjunctivitis	Exclude until discharge from eyes has ceased	Not excluded
Cytomegalovirus (CMV)	Exclusion not necessary	Not excluded
Diarrhoea	Exclude until diarrhoea has ceased	Not excluded
Diphtheria	Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is received following at least two negative throat swabs, the first not less than 24 hours after finishing a course of antibiotics and the other 48 hours.	Exclude family/household contacts until cleared to return by an appropriate health authority.
Glandular Fever (mononucleosis)	Exclusion is not necessary	Not excluded
Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease	Exclude until all blisters have dried	Not excluded
Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)	Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is received.	Not excluded. However close contacts may require antibiotic prophylaxis as advised by the Public Health Unit.

CONDITION	EXCLUSION OF CASES	EXCLUSION OF CONTACTS
Hepatitis A	Exclude for at least seven days after the onset of jaundice or illness and until a medical certificate of recovery is received.	Not excluded. Contact Public Health Unit for advice.
Hepatitis B	Exclusion is not necessary	Not excluded
Hepatitis C	Exclusion is not necessary	Not excluded
Herpes (cold sores)	Young children unable to comply with good hygiene practices should be excluded while the lesion is weeping. Lesions should be covered by a dressing where possible.	Not excluded
Hookworm	Exclusion is not necessary	Not excluded
HIV - AIDS Human immunodeficiency virus	Exclusion is not necessary unless the child has a secondary infection	Not excluded
Impetigo	Exclude until appropriate treatment has commenced. Sores on exposed surfaces must be covered with a watertight dressing.	Not excluded
Influenza and influenza like illnesses	Exclude until well	Not excluded
Leprosy	Exclude until approval to return has been given by an appropriate health authority	Not excluded
Measles	Exclude for at least four days after onset of rash	Immunised contacts not excluded. Unimmunised contacts should be excluded until 14 days after the first day of appearance of rash in the last case. If unimmunised contacts are vaccinated within 72 hours of their first contact with the case they may return to school.

CONDITION	EXCLUSION OF CASES	EXCLUSION OF CONTACTS
Meningitis (bacterial)	Exclude until well	Not excluded.
Meningococcal infection	Exclude until adequate carrier eradication therapy has been completed	Not excluded if receiving rifampicin
Molluscum contagiosum	Exclusion is not necessary	Not excluded
Parvovirus (slapped cheek, erythema infectiosum, fifth disease)	Exclusion is not necessary	Not excluded
Poliomyelitis	Exclude for at least 14 days from onset. Readmit after receiving medical certificate of recovery.	Not excluded
Ringworm, pediculosis (lice), scabies, trachoma	Readmit the day after appropriate treatment has commenced	Not excluded
Rubella (German measles)	Exclude until fully recovered or for at least four days after the onset of rash	Not excluded
Salmonella, Shigella	Exclude until diarrhoea has ceased	Not excluded
Streptococcal infection (including scarlet fever)	Exclude until the child has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and the person feels well.	Not excluded
Tuberculosis	Exclude until a medical certificate from an appropriate health authority is received.	Not excluded
Typhoid fever (including paratyphoid fever)	Exclude until approval to return has been given by an appropriate health authority	Not excluded unless considered necessary by public health authorities.
Whooping cough (pertussis)	Exclude the child for five days after starting antibiotic treatment.	Exclude unimmunised

		household contacts aged less than 7 years for 14 days after the last exposure to infection or until they have received five days of a 14 day course of antibiotic therapy.
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