

Medical department

A basic guide to recommended periods of absence/exclusion for common childhood illnesses

Diarrhea and/or vomiting

Exclude from school for a recommended 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhea or vomiting before returning to the classroom.

Chicken pox

Exclude from school for five days from the onset of the rash. Please inform the ASL nurses because of risk to vulnerable children and pregnant staff.

Measles

Exclude from school for four days from the onset of the rash. Please inform the ASL nurses because of risk to vulnerable children and pregnant staff.

German measles (rubella)

Exclude from school for six days from the onset of the rash. Please inform the ASL nurses because of risk to vulnerable children and pregnant staff.

Impetigo

Exclude from school for 48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment or until lesions are crusted and healed.

Scarlet fever

Exclude from school for 24 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment.

Mumps

Exclude from school for five days from the onset of swelling.

Conjunctivitis

No exclusion is required if the child is not uncomfortable and is able to maintain good personal hygiene.

Parvo virus (slapped cheek syndrome)

No exclusion is required if the child feels well. Please inform the ASL nurses because of risk to vulnerable children and pregnant staff.

Hand, foot and mouth

No exclusion is required. Please inform the ASL nurses to enable them to manage and monitor any potential spread of infection.

Head lice

Kindergarten children may be sent home and would not be expected back in school until treatment is completed, owing to the inevitable close contact of this age group. Treatment is recommended if live lice are found. Please inform the ASL nurses to enable them to manage and monitor any potential spread of infection.

Fever

Exclude from school until fever symptoms have subsided and the child is feeling well.

Adapted from "Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare setting," a publication of the Health Protection Agency (April 2017)