



GUIDANCE FOR PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIONS IN SCHOOLS AND OTHER CHILDCARE SETTINGS

Infections can spread quickly in settings like schools and childcare settings. Good infection prevention practices like handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, and cleaning help reduce the risk of spread. Staying home when sick and following the recommended exclusion periods is also important in preventing infections from spreading to others.

MINIMUM RECOMMENDED EXCLUSION PERIODS

Anyone with a fever should stay home until they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

This should be followed along with the exclusion periods below.

RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS	
Infection	Exclusion Period
COVID-19	Exclude until recovered and/or negative test
Flu (Influenza)	Until recovered
Measles*	4 days from onset of rash
Mumps*	5 days after onset of swelling
Strep Throat	24 hours after starting antibiotic treatment
Whooping Cough (Pertussis)*	5 days after starting antibiotic treatment or 21 days from onset of illness if no treatment

DIARRHOEA AND VOMITING ILLNESSES	
Illness	Exclusion Period
Diarrhoea and/or vomiting (including food-borne diseases, food poisoning, etc.)	48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting

RASHES AND SKIN INFECTIONS	
Infection or Condition	Exclusion Period
Chickenpox (Varicella)	5 days from onset of rash and until all blisters are crusted over
Cold Sores	None
German Measles (Rubella)*	5 days from onset of rash
Hand, Foot and Mouth (Coxsackie Virus)	None unless excessive drooling due to mouth sores
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted and healed or 48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment
Ringworm-skin/scalp	Until appropriate treatment has begun
Scabies	Until the first treatment is completed
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after starting antibiotic treatment

OTHER INFECTIONS AND CONDITIONS	
Infection or Condition	Exclusion Period
Conjunctivitis	None if mild
Head Lice	Until appropriate treatment has begun
Meningitis (Bacterial or Viral)*	Until recovered and cleared by physician
Mononucleosis	None
MRSA	None unless directed by physician or wound is draining and cannot be covered
Hepatitis A*	7 days after onset of jaundice or 7 days after symptom onset if no jaundice
Other vaccine preventable disease (diphtheria, polio, pulmonary TB etc.)*	Exclude immediately and until advised to return by public health

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE & REPORTING

Each setting may develop its own exclusion policies but should follow at least the minimum periods recommended. It is important that exclusion policies are clearly communicated to staff, parents, and guardians.

Please notify public health in the following situations:

- Single cases of any illness marked with an asterisk (*).
- Clusters of illness (when several children or staff have similar symptoms).
- Unusual or unexpected illnesses

If you're unsure whether a situation should be reported, contact public health for guidance.

There may be situations where public health measures may need to be put into place. These include situations where close contacts of a person with an illness may also need to stay home and not attend school or other childcare settings. In these situations, additional information may be needed for contact tracing.

Timely communication with public health can help ensure that appropriate steps are taken early, minimizing the risk of further spread and disruptions to school or childcare operations.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit
Telephone: 278-4900 / 444-0673
Email: epidemiology@gov.bm

Child Health Clinic
Telephone: 278-6460 / 444-0720
Email: childhealth@gov.bm