

Recommended time to be kept away from childcare and childminding
If you have any questions please contact your local Health Protection Team (HPT)

Email

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Main points:

- Any child who is unwell should not attend regardless of whether they have a confirmed infection
- Children with diarrhoea and/or vomiting should be excluded until they have no symptoms for 48 hours following their last episode
- Children with unexplained rashes should be considered infectious until assessed by a doctor
- Contact a member of the HPT if required for advice and always if an outbreak is expected

Infection or symptom	Recommended Exclusion	Comments
1. Rashes/ skin infections		
Athletes foot.	None.	Not serious infection child should be treated.
Chickenpox (Varicella Zoster).	Until all vesicles have crusted over (usually 5 days).	Pregnant staff should seek advice from their GP if they have no history of having the illness.
Cold sores (herpes simplex).	None.	Avoid kissing and contact with the sore.
German measles (rubella).	7 days before rash and 7 days after.	Preventable by vaccination (MMR x 2 doses). Pregnant staff should seek prompt advice from their GP.
Hand Foot and Mouth (coxsackie).	None.	If a large number of children affected contact HPT. Exclusion may be considered in some circumstances.
Impetigo (Streptococcal Group A skin infection).	Until lesions are crusted or healed or 48 hours after starting antibiotics .	Antibiotics reduce the infectious period.
Measles.	4 days from onset of rash.	Preventable by immunisation. (MMR x 2 doses). Pregnant staff should seek prompt advice from their GP.
Ringworm.	Not usually required unless extensive.	Treatment is required.
Scabies.	Until first treatment has been completed.	2 treatments are required including treatment for household and close contacts.
Scarlet fever.	Child can return 24 hours after starting appropriate antibiotic treatment.	Antibiotic treatment is recommended for the affected child.

Slapped cheek/fifth disease. Parvovirus B19. Shingles.	None (once rash has developed). Exclude only if rash is weeping and cannot be covered.	Pregnant contacts of a case should consult their GP. Can cause chickenpox in those who are not immune, ie have not had chickenpox. It is spread by very close contact and touch.
Warts and verrucae.	None.	Verrucae should be covered in swimming pools, gymnasiums and changing rooms.

2. Diarrhoea and vomiting illness

Diarrhoea and/or vomiting.	48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting.	
<i>E. coli</i> O157 STEC Typhoid and paratyphoid (enteric fever) <i>Shigella</i> (dysentery).	Should be excluded for 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea for <i>E. coli</i> O157. Further exclusion may be required for some children until they are no longer excreting. Exclusion is also variable for enteric fever and dysentery. HPT will advise.	Further exclusion is required for children aged 5 years or younger and those who have difficulty in adhering to hygiene practices.
Cryptosporidiosis.	Exclude for 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea.	Exclusion from swimming is advisable for 2 weeks after the diarrhoea has settled.

3. Respiratory infections

Flu (influenza).	Until recovered.	If an outbreak/cluster occurs, consult your local HPT.
Tuberculosis.	Advised by HPT on individual cases.	Only pulmonary (lung) TB is infectious to others. Needs close, prolonged contact to spread.
Whooping cough (pertussis).	48 hours from starting antibiotic treatment, or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment.	Preventable by vaccination. After treatment, non-infectious coughing may continue for many weeks.

4. Other infections

Conjunctivitis.	None .	If an outbreak/cluster occurs, consult your local HPT.
Diphtheria.	Exclusion is essential. Always consult your local HPT.	Family contacts must be excluded until cleared to return by your local HPT. Preventable by vaccination.
Glandular fever. Head lice.	None. None.	Treatment is recommended only in cases where live lice have been seen.
Hepatitis A.		Exclude until 7 days after onset of jaundice (or 7 days after symptom onset if no jaundice).

Hepatitis B, C, HIV/AIDS.	None.	Hepatitis B and C and HIV are bloodborne viruses that are not infectious through casual contact.
Meningococcal meningitis/septicaemia.	Until recovered.	Meningitis ACWY and B are preventable by vaccination. There is no reason to exclude siblings or other close contacts of a case.
Meningitis due to other bacteria.	Until recovered.	Hib and pneumococcal meningitis are preventable by vaccination. There is no reason to exclude siblings or other close contacts of a case.
Meningitis viral.	None	Milder illness. There is no reason to exclude siblings and other close contacts of a case. Contact tracing is not required.
MRSA.	None.	Good hand hygiene and environmental cleaning.
Mumps.	Exclude child for 5 days after onset of swelling.	Preventable by vaccination (MMR x2 doses).
Threadworms.	None.	Treatment is recommended for the child and household contacts.
Tonsillitis.	None.	There are many causes, but most cases are due to viruses and do not need an antibiotic.