



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

Childhood infections are common and can be acquired at home or in the community and brought into education or childcare settings or acquired and spread within the setting. Infection control measures aim to interrupt the chain of transmission within the setting.

The exclusions for public health indicate the minimum time period an individual should not attend a setting to reduce the risk of transmission. Settings can set their own policies, but they should not be less than the minimum recommendation.

## MINIMUM RECOMMENDED EXCLUSION PERIOD

**For all fevers, regardless of cause, the child should be excluded until fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.**

### RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS

Infection	Exclusion Period
COVID-19*	Refer to current available public health guidance
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)*	Until blisters and mouth ulcers are healed and no fever for 24 hours
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	Until prescribed treatment has been given for 24-48 hours or condition improves.
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

### REPORTING

Certain conditions should be reported to the Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit as follows:

- For conditions with \* report if there is one case
- Any unusual condition, infection or illness should be reported
- Other conditions should be reported if there are signs of an outbreak

### SIGNS OF AN OUTBREAK IN A SCHOOL OR CHILDCARE SETTING

- Several children are ill with the same illness
- Sudden increase in the number of absentees with report of illness

### ACTION IN THE EVENT OF AN OUTBREAK

- Report to public health and follow public health recommendations
- Enhance infection prevention and control measures (hand hygiene, respiratory and cough hygiene, personal protective equipment, ventilation, environmental cleaning)
- Communicate with parents and guardians

### ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

The tables above give some quick guidance on the prevention and control of some of the infections, illnesses and conditions that may be encountered in schools and childcare settings. It is not exhaustive and is not intended to replace clinical and/or public health assessment and management, which should only be undertaken by an appropriately qualified health professional.

Exclusions of persons in contact with the ill person may apply. Whenever there is any doubt about the public health management of a health-related situation in a school or childcare setting, guidance should be sought from public health.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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For reporting and additional guidance: [www.gov.bm/health-information](http://www.gov.bm/health-information)