

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CHART
CONCISE DESCRIPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EXCLUSION OF CASES FROM
SCHOOL

DISEASE *Immunization is available	Usual Interval Between Exposure and First Symptoms of Disease	MAIN SYMPTOMS	Minimum Exclusion From School
CHICKENPOX (Varicella)	13 to 17 days	Mild symptoms and fever. Pocks are "blistery." Develop scabs, most on covered parts of body.	5 days from onset of pocks or until pocks become dry
CONJUNCTIVITIS (PINK EYE)	24 to 72 hours	Tearing, redness and puffy lids, eye discharge.	Until treatment begins or physician approves readmission.
ERYTHEMA INFECTIOSUM (5 TH DISEASE)	4 to 20 days	Usual age 5 to 14 years – unusual in adults. Brief prodrome of low-grade fever followed by Erythema (slapped cheek) appearance on cheeks, lace-like rash on extremities lasting a few days to 3 weeks. Rash seems to recur.	After diagnosis no exclusion from school.
GERMAN MEASLES* (RUBELLA)	14 to 23 days	Usually mild. Enlarged glands in neck and behind ears. Brief red rash.	7 days from onset of rash. Keep away from pregnant women.
HAEMOPHILUS MENINGITIS	2 to 4 days	Fever, vomiting, lethargy, stiff neck and back.	Until physician permits return.
HEPATITIS A	Variable – 15 to 50 (average 28 to 30 days)	Abdominal pain, nausea, usually fever. Skin and eyes may or may not turn yellow.	14 days from onset of clinical disease and at least 7 days from onset of jaundice.
IMPETIGO	4 to 10 days	Inflamed sores, with puss.	Cover lesions when attending school/ day care
MEASLES*	10 days to fever, 14 days to rash	Begins with fever, conjunctivitis, runny nose, cough, then blotchy red rash.	4 days from onset of rash.
MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS	2 to 10 days (commonly 3 to 4 days)	Headache, nausea, stiff neck, fever.	Antibiotics for 24 hours or until physician permits return.
MUMPS*	12 to 25 days (commonly 18 days)	Fever, swelling and tenderness of glands at angle of jaw.	9 days after onset of swollen glands or until swelling disappears.
RINGWORM OF SCALP	10 to 14 days	Scaly patch, usually ring shaped, on scalp.	No exclusion from school. Exclude from swimming pools, contact sports.
SCABIES	2 to 6 weeks initial exposure; 1 to 4 days reexposure	Tinny burrows in skin caused by mites.	Until 24 hours after treatment.
SCARLET FEVER SCARLATINA STREP THROAT	1 to 3 days	Sudden onset, vomiting, sore throat, fever, later fine rash (not on face). Rash usually with first infection.	24 hours after antibiotics started and no fever.
WHOOPIING COUGH* (PERTUSSIS)	7 to 10 days	Head cold, slight fever, cough, characteristic whoop after 2 weeks.	5 days after start of antibiotic treatment.

Readmission to School – It is advisable that school authorities require written permission from the health officer, school physician or attending physician before any pupil is readmitted to class following any disease which requires exclusion, not mere absence, from school.

Reviewed: April 26, 2005
March 27, 2018

Revised: Feb. 10, 2009
April 23, 2013
June 25, 2024