

A communicable disease is defined as an illness due to an infectious agent, or its toxic products, which is transmitted directly or indirectly to a person from an infected person or animal. Short-term communicable diseases are those which generally last no more than ten days.

The parent/guardian of a student with a communicable disease or infestation shall be encouraged to notify the school as soon as they have knowledge of their child’s diagnosis. School guidelines for exclusion due to a communicable disease will follow recommendations from local, state, and federal agencies that address communicable disease standards.

The principal and his/her designee and/or the school nurse will make the initial decision to exclude a child from school attendance. Persons involved in the care and education of communicable disease-infected children shall respect the child’s right to privacy, including the maintenance of confidential records.

If a parent/guardian notices any discharges, such as yellowish-green drainage from the eyes, ears and/or nose, the parent is to/should have the child checked by the family physician before returning the child to school. The parent is to/should have the physician send a note advising the school of the child’s condition.

All children with fevers of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater will be excluded from school until fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications (Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Motrin, Aspirin, etc.) Please see Medication Administration Policy # 6125.

A sick child will be cared for until the parent/guardian arrives, however, the comfort of the child will be increased if the parent/guardian arrives at the school as quickly as possible. If an ill or injured child warrants immediate action, 911 will be called.

Disease	Incubation (before symptoms)	Contagious	Return to school
Chicken pox	10-21 days	From 1 day before the rash, to 5-6 days after the rash began. Transmission by respiratory and scab drainage	When free of symptoms and all pox have crusted (usually 6 days). Face and hands must be free of scabs. Student must be checked by school personnel before return to school.
Fifth Disease	Less than 1 month	1-7 days before the rash appears (not contagious after rash appears)	When free of fever. Rash may persist for several weeks
Impetigo	2-5 days	From onset of sores until they are dry	Must have a doctor’s note to return. Will be excluded from school for 24 hours after treatment begins. Area will be covered during school hours.
Diarrhea and Vomiting (occurs more than 1 time during school day)	Varies	As long as diarrhea and vomiting are present	No diarrhea or vomiting for 24 hours.
MRSA		During course of	When cleared by physician. Open wounds must

SHORT TERM COMMUNICABLE DISEASES – STUDENTS

Policy Code: 4230.5

(Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus)		infection	be covered at all times. Sports will be allowed when cleared by a physician. (Doctor’s note must be presented on reentry to school)
Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis)	Varies 1 to 12 days	During course of infection	When cleared by physician. (Doctor’s note must be presented on reentry to school)
Ring Worm (other than scalp area)	Varies	Until treatment is started	With lesion covered and treatment started. The parent will bring in medication for verification of treatment
Ring Worm of the scalp	Varies	Until treatment is started.	Must have a doctor’s note to certify student is under adequate and continuing treatment
Scabies	4-6 weeks from new infestation	While mite is alive. (All family members must be treated)	Must be excluded from school for 24 hours after treatment is completed. Must have a doctor’s note to return
Streptococcal Infections (Scarlet fever, Scarletina, Strep throat)	2-7 days	Until 24 hours after treatment is started.	Must have a doctor’s note to return. Will be excluded from school for 24 hours after medication is begun

* Information for table taken from Manual of School Health, 2nd edition, 2002.

Infestations: Head Lice

Onslow County Schools maintains a “No-Nit” policy that requires that a student be treated with a pediculocide and be free of nits (lice eggs) and live lice before re-admission to school. Students who have been excluded must be checked and be found nit-free by the nurse or designated school personnel before riding the bus or entering the classroom.

Up to three days of excused absences is permitted for head lice infestation. Exclusion from school due to repeated infestation does not exempt a child from mandatory school attendance (see Attendance Policy 4400). Truancy procedures will be followed.

Legal References:

Cross References: Long-Term Communicable Diseases-Students (policy 4230)

Adopted: September 5, 2006