



## Communicable Disease Protocol for Exclusion from School

When a student with symptoms of a communicable disease reports to the health office, the principal, school nurse, or staff designated by the principal or school nurse will exclude the student until they no longer are infectious or pose a risk to others, or per a medical practitioner's written instructions. When exclusion is necessary, the parent/guardian will be notified of the reason and referred to a medical practitioner when appropriate. The school nurse can be contacted with questions on communicable diseases.

Students will be excluded from school for communicable disease control for the following:

- **Rash** with fever or behavioral changes until a medical practitioner determines that the rash is not caused by a communicable disease, or skin sores that are weeping fluid located on an exposed part of the body that cannot be covered.
- **Fever** of 100.4°F or greater. Exclude until fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medication for at least 24 hours.
- 2 or more episodes of **vomiting** in the previous 24 hours. Exclude until asymptomatic for 24 hours. The exception is if the vomiting is found to be caused by a non-infectious condition.
- 3 or more **loose stools** in a 24-hour period, not associated with changes in diet. Stools are less formed and more frequent than usual. Exclude until asymptomatic for 48 hours. The exception is if the diarrhea is found to be caused by a non-infectious condition.
- **"Pinkeye" (conjunctivitis)** if accompanied by fever, behavioral change or inability to avoid touching eyes. Antibiotics are not required for return.
- **Strep throat.** Exclude for at least 12 hours after initiation of appropriate antibiotic.
- Students whose immunization status is not in compliance with the Wisconsin immunization law may be excluded.
- With guidance from the health department, students with known suppressed immunity may be excluded, for their protection, when cases of communicable disease (i.e., measles, chickenpox) occur in school.

A student may not be excluded from school when the risk of transmission of a communicable disease is unlikely in the school setting. For example, because transmission primarily occurs through sexual contact or from sharing infected needles, students with sexually transmitted infections would not be excluded unless they had a secondary infection or other communicable disease that posed a threat to others.

A student may not be excluded from school when transmission of a communicable disease can be controlled through education, provision of supplies for good hygiene, and by practicing universal precautions.

### References:

Wisconsin Communicable Disease Chart, March 2024  
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p4/p44397.pdf>

American Academy of Pediatrics  
<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/Pages/default.aspx>

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