The American School in London

Medical department

A basic guide to recommended periods of absence/exclusion
for common childhood illnesses

Diarrhea and/or vomiting
Exclude from school for a recommended 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhea or vomiting before returning to the classroom.

Chicken pox
Exclude from school for five days from the onset of the rash. Please inform the ASL nurses because of risk to vulnerable children and pregnant staff.

Measles
Exclude from school for four days from the onset of the rash. Please inform the ASL nurses because of risk to vulnerable children and pregnant staff.

German measles (rubella)
Exclude from school for six days from the onset of the rash. Please inform the ASL nurses because of risk to vulnerable children and pregnant staff.

Impetigo
Exclude from school for 48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment or until lesions are crusted and healed.

Scarlet fever
Exclude from school for 24 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment.

Mumps
Exclude from school for five days from the onset of swelling.

Conjunctivitis
No exclusion is required if the child is not uncomfortable and is able to maintain good personal hygiene.

Parvo virus (slapped cheek syndrome)
No exclusion is required if the child feels well. Please inform the ASL nurses because of risk to vulnerable children and pregnant staff.

Hand, foot and mouth
No exclusion is required. Please inform the ASL nurses to enable them to manage and monitor any potential spread of infection.

Head lice
Kindergarten children may be sent home and would not be expected back in school until treatment is completed, owing to the inevitable close contact of this age group. Treatment is recommended if live lice are found. Please inform the ASL nurses to enable them to manage and monitor any potential spread of infection.

Fever
Exclude the child from school for 24 hours after fever symptoms have subsided, and then return as long as they are feeling well enough to attend.

Adapted from "Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare setting," a publication of the Health Protection Agency (April 2017)