



DATE

Dear Parent or Guardian,

As you are aware, school is a community environment where your children learn and play together. However, due to this close proximity, it is often very easy for illness to spread rapidly through the student and staff population. Please be aware of the following exclusion periods for certain illnesses. These exclusion periods are for the protection of your child and all other members of the school community.

It is important to note that a child will often not demonstrate symptoms of an illness until after the infectious/incubation phase is over. This means that illness can be spread through a class group extremely quickly and without any warning. Please understand that we will do everything to limit the spread of infection but this is not always possible.

**Students and staff should be excluded from school activities for the following conditions:**

- **Chicken pox (Varicella):** exclude until all lesions have dried and crusted or, in immunized children without crusts, until no new lesions appear within a 24-hour period.
- **Diarrheal diseases:** exclude for 24 hours after the last loose bowel movement.
- **Haemophilus influenzae type B, invasive (Hib):** exclude until after 24 hours of antibiotic treatment.
- **Hand, Foot & Mouth:** exclude until all blisters have dried.
- **HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and other blood borne diseases:** generally no exclusion; considerations may exist if there is potential for blood borne exposure. Consult healthcare provider for guidance.
- **Hepatitis A:** exclude until one week after onset of illness.
- **Influenza and Influenza-like illness:** exclude as long as fever  $\geq 100$  degrees Fahrenheit/38 degrees Celsius is present in an un-medicated state (without giving paracetamol/ibuprofen). If a child has a runny nose there is no need to keep the child home from school.
- **Measles:** exclude until four days after onset of rash.
- **Meningococcal disease (Neisseria meningitides):** exclude until after 24 hours of antibiotic treatment.
- **Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA):** exclude only if confirmed MRSA is present from a wound in which drainage is occurring and cannot be covered and contained.

- **Mumps:** exclude until five days after the onset of parotid gland swelling.
- **Pertussis (Whooping cough):** exclude until completion of five days of appropriate antibiotic treatment. If appropriate antibiotic treatment is not received, exclude until 21 days after onset of symptoms.
- **Pink eye, head lice, ringworm, herpes gladiatorum and skin rashes without fever:** generally no exclusion; considerations may exist for certain sports, extracurricular activities or behaviors that might increase risk of transmission. Consult healthcare provider for guidance.
- **Rubella:** exclude until seven days after onset of rash.
- **Scabies:** exclude until after treatment has been completed.
- **Shingles (Herpes zoster):** generally no exclusion if lesions can be covered. If lesions cannot be covered, exclude until rash or lesions have crusted over.
- **Strep throat and Streptococcal skin infections:** exclude until after 24 hours of antibiotic treatment.
- **Tuberculosis:** exclude until physician and Department of Health determine person is not infectious

Should you require any further information on the school's policies regarding illness please do not hesitate to contact the school Nursing Team.

Sincerely,

Unity Concord Nursing Team