



Managing Specific Infectious Diseases in School

When your child develops an infectious disease, there is a set period of time during which they must not return to School. This is both for your child's benefit, as well as for the protection of their fellow pupils and staff. For all diseases please see the Public Health England Government website, which details the length of time pupils must be excluded from School:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/chapter-9-managing-specific-infectious-diseases>

Children with rashes should be considered infectious and be assessed by their GP. If the GP suspects a notifiable disease, the local Health Protection Team will be informed and a Notification Form will be completed. It is important to notify the School Nurses if your child is diagnosed with such a disease and especially before they return to School. (There may be pupils or staff undergoing medical treatment whose immunity may be compromised).

The latest Government guidelines (updated Feb 2018) for some of the most common childhood illnesses:

- **Vomiting and Diarrhoea:** The exclusion time is 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea and/or vomiting. For some infections longer periods of exclusion are required and there may be a need to get microbiological clearance before returning to School.
- **Mumps:** The exclusion time is 5 days after the onset of swelling.
- **Chickenpox:** The exclusion time is 5 days from when the lesions appeared and until all the lesions have crusted over.
- **Shingles:** A decision to exclude a pupil will vary for each case of Shingles. It will be dependent on whether the rash is weeping, whether it can be covered and whether there are other pupils or staff whose immunity is severely compromised (and who could therefore be vulnerable if they come into contact with this infection).
- **Measles:** The exclusion time is 4 days from the appearance of the rash.
- **Rubella:** The exclusion time is 6 days from the appearance of the rash.
- **Scarlet Fever:** The pupil may return to school 24 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment. (Without antibiotic treatment, the pupil may be infectious for up to 3 weeks and will not be able to return to school during that period).
- **Glandular Fever:** No exclusion time.
- **Conjunctivitis:** Pupils may return to School as soon as treatment is commenced.
- **Verrucae:** Should be covered when in the swimming pool, gym and changing room areas.
- **Influenza (flu):** Pupils should remain at home until well enough to return to School.
- **Impetigo:** Exclusion is necessary until the lesions have crusted over, or 48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment.
- **Head Lice:** No exclusion necessary, but treatment should be commenced immediately.