



## 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 disease 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 are pupils or staff undergoing medical treatment whose immunity may be compromised).**

### **The latest Government guidelines (updated March 2019) for some of the most common childhood illnesses:**

- **Chickenpox:** The exclusion time is 5 days from when lesions appeared and until all the lesions have crusted over.
- **Conjunctivitis:** Pupils may return to School as soon as treatment is commenced.
- **COVID-19:** The current government guidance is available here: [NHS Covid advice](#)  
**Families are reminded to email the school nurses promptly on receipt of a positive test result.**
- **Glandular Fever:** No exclusion time. The pupil may return once they feel well.
- **Head Lice:** No exclusion necessary, but treatment should be commenced immediately.
- **Impetigo:** Exclusion is necessary until lesions have crusted over, or 48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment.
- **Influenza (flu):** Pupils should remain at home until well enough to return to School.
- **Measles:** The exclusion time is 5 days from the appearance of the rash.
- **Mumps:** The exclusion time is 5 days after the onset of swelling, or longer if still unwell.
- **Rubella:** The exclusion time is 5 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).
- **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).
- **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.

**Government guidance should be consulted for the exclusion time for all other diseases [/spotty-book-2019-.pdf](#)**

| Date reviewed | Next Review Date | Responsibility |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| February 2023 | February 2024    | School Nurses  |