



POLICY, REQUIREMENTS AND QUARANTINE PERIODS REGARDING ILLNESS AND CHILDHOOD DISEASES

Infectious diseases are a major cause of illness in the school-going child. Appropriate control measures in the school and the wider community will minimise the transmission within the school. The common modes of transmission include direct contact (touching an infected lesion), faecal oral contamination (poor hand washing) and droplet spread (e.g. from coughing). Handwashing is the single most important part of infection control. Teaching children the skills of handwashing and cough etiquette is essential in breaking the chain of infection transmission. The school will endeavour to teach this skill to children.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

A child with an infectious disease may show general symptoms of illness before the development of a rash or other typical features said infection. These general symptoms may include headache, vomiting, sore throat, shivering attacks, feeling cold, a fever or vaguely feeling unwell. When a child shows these general symptoms or more specific symptoms, whilst at school, the parents will be informed.

Exclusion periods:

The need for exclusion depends on several factors which should be taken in consideration together.

- the ease with which the infection can be spread;
- the ability of the infected person to follow hygiene precautions;
- whether or not the person has some immunity to the infection (either from vaccination or past infection);
- to a lesser extent, the severity of the disease.

In partnership with



DEFINITIONS:

Exclusion periods are based on the time that a child with a specific disease or condition might be infectious to others.

Non-exclusion means there is not a significant risk of transmitting infection to others. A person who is not excluded may still need to remain at home because he or she does not feel well.

A **contact** is any person who has been close enough to an infected person to be at risk of having acquired the infection from that person.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

Children with illnesses, where the risk of spread of this illness to other children is concerning, will only be re-admitted to school with a medical certificate.

Quarantine/ exclusion periods are set out below:

- * **Chicken Pox:** Until scabs are dry usually 5-7 days after appearance of rash.
- * **Cold sores and/ or Impetigo:** Until the sore has healed or 48 hours of treatment has been completed. Sores must be covered appropriately.
- * **Conjunctivitis (pink eye):** Until the eyes are no longer red or discharging.
- * **Diphtheria:** Until 6 daily throat swabs test negative.
- * **Hepatitis A (infectious):** Until complete recovery. Minimum period of exclusion +/- 7 days.
- * **Gastroenteritis/ Food poisoning:** +/- 24hrs after last episode, first formed stool.
- * **Influenza/ influenza- like symptoms:** until feeling better, temperature returned to normal, usually 3-5 days.
- * **Scabies:** Until the sores have healed or 48 hours of treatment have been completed.
- * **Lice:** After complete cleansing and freeing of head, body and clothing from lice and nits.
- * **Measles:** +/- 7 days after first appearance of rash.
- * **Measles (German)/ Rubella:** For 1 week after rash appears, whilst unwell.
- * **Mumps:** From the time symptoms start until +/- 5 days after onset of swelling, when the child is well.
- * **Molluscum contagiosum:** handwashing important, avoid direct contact with lesions, do not share towels, the child need not be excluded.
- * **Pharyngitis/ Tonsillitis:** While child is unwell, +/- 24 hours after initiation of antibiotics.
- * **Plantar Warts (Verrucae):** not necessary/ avoid sharing towels, avoid touching & picking.
- * **Ringworm:** Return to school immediately if under appropriate treatment and affected parts are covered.

- * **Scarlet Fever & Strep Throat:** If no sore throat, no discharge from ears or nose, no recently enlarged glands or discharging sores and on production of a medical certificate. Minimum period of exclusion: 14 days after commencement of treatment.
- * **Whooping Cough:** +/-5 days after starting antibiotic treatment, or for 21 days from the start of any cough. Exclude if diarrhea present, handwashing important.

EXCLUSION POLICY

Children will be excluded if:

- * The illness prevents the child from participating in normal activities;
- * the illness requires more care from the staff than they are able to provide without neglecting the needs of the other children in the group;
- * keeping the child at school poses a risk to the child or to other persons (children or adults) with whom the child will come into contact;
- * they meet any of the criteria contained in the **exclusion guidelines** which appear on the above list.

The above guidelines are by no means exhaustive, but serve to assist in the decision making process. Parents/ guardians will be contacted immediately by the school should there be a change in condition of a child whilst at school. Every attempt will be made to care for the child whilst waiting for the parent/ guardian to arrive.

