

Illness Guidelines: Conditions requiring temporary exclusion

When a student becomes ill but does not require immediate medical help, a determination must be made about whether the student should, be sent home (i.e., should be temporarily excluded from school). Most illnesses do not require exclusion. The building administrator, school nurse or designee should determine whether the student's illness meets the following criteria for exclusion:

- Prevents the student from participating comfortably in activities as determined by staff members of the school.
- Results in need for care that is greater than staff members can provide without compromising the health and safety of other students.
- Poses a risk of spread of harmful disease to others (on the list of specific excludable conditions).

If any of these criteria are met, the student should be excluded, regardless of type of illness, unless a health professional determines the student's condition does not require exclusion. To attend school, the student must be absent a fever without the aid of fever-reducing medicine.

List of specific excludable conditions:

- A severely ill appearance. This could include lethargy or lack of responsiveness, irritability persistent crying, difficulty breathing, or having a quickly spreading rash.
- Fever and behavior change or other signs and symptoms (e.g., sore throat, rash, vomiting, diarrhea).
- Diarrhea, stool that is occurring more frequently or is less formed in consistency than usual in the student and not associated with changes of diet. Exclude students who have 2 stools above normal per 24 hours.
- Vomiting 2 or more times in the previous 24 hours.
- Abdominal pain that continues for more than 2 hours or intermittent abdominal pain that is associated with a fever or other signs or symptoms.
- Mouth sores with drooling that the student cannot control unless the health department or the student's healthcare provider states the student is noninfectious.
- Rash with fever or behavioral changes, until a healthcare provider has determined the illness is not a communicable disease.
- Skin sores that are weeping fluid and are on an exposed body surface that cannot be covered with a waterproof dressing.

- Other, specific diagnoses as follows:
 - Streptococcal pharyngitis (i.e., Strep throat or other streptococcal infection), exclusion until the student starts an appropriate course of an antibiotic (course is usually at least a week of a form of penicillin or erythromycin). Return to school may occur if the student has a dose on the day of the diagnosis and has a second dose the following morning and before returning to the school.
 - Head lice (pediculosis), only if student has not been treated after notifying family at the end of the prior school day. (Note: Exclusion is not necessary before the end of the school day.)
 - Scabies, only if student has not been treated after notifying family at the end of the prior school day. (Note: Exclusion is not necessary before the end of the school day.)
 - Pink Eye (conjunctivitis), only if yellow or white eye drainage or crusting eye discharge associated with pink or red conjunctive (i.e. Whites of eyes) and fever, eye pain or eyelid redness.
 - Ringworm, (cutaneous fungal infections) only if student has not been treated after notifying family at the end of the prior school day. (Note: Exclusion is not necessary before the end of the school day.)
 - Impetigo, only if student has not been treated after notifying family at the end of the prior school day. (Note: Exclusion is not necessary before the end of the school day as long as lesions are covered.)
 - Chickenpox (varicella) until all lesions have dried or crusted (usually 6 days after onset of rash) and no new lesions have showed for at least 24 hours.
 - Rubella, until 7 days after rash appears.
 - Pertussis, until 5 days of appropriate antibiotic treatment (21 days if untreated).
 - Mumps, until 5 days after onset of parotid gland swelling.
 - Measles, until 4 days after onset of rash.
 - Hepatitis A virus infection, until 1 week after onset of illness or jaundice or as directed by the health department (if the student's symptoms are mild). (Note: Protection of others in the group should be checked to be sure everyone who was exposed has received vaccine or receives vaccine immediately).