

Communicable Diseases

Parent Info

Please consult your family's health care provider should your student exhibit signs of illness. To avoid complications, as well as to protect the health of fellow students and staff, students having the following communicable diseases should remain out of school for the specified length of time.

PINKEYE (Conjunctivitis)

Incubation: viral- hours to days, bacterial- 24-72 hours. Redness of eye, discharge (watery with viral, often thick or cloudy with bacterial), matted eyelashes, burning, itching. Exclude if eye discharge is noted or until student completes 24 hours of antibiotics if ordered.

PINWORMS

Incubation: 3 weeks to 3 months. Anal itching with disturbed sleep, irritability and local irritation due to scratching. Communicable as long as worms are present. Exclude until adequately treated by physician. Children should wash their hands after toileting and before meals. Do not allow sharing of bed clothing.

RINGWORM

Incubation: Scalp 10-14 days; Skin 4-10 days; Feet unknown. Scalp - scaly patches of temporary baldness, infected hairs are brittle and break. Skin - flat, ring-like rash, inflamed, may itch or burn.

Feet - scaling and cracking of skin especially between toes, blisters may be present, filled with watery fluid. Communicable as long as lesions are present. Exclude until 24 hours of appropriate medical treatment is completed. To prevent spread, no contact sports until lesions disappear.

SCABIES

Incubation: First infestation 2-6 weeks; subsequent 24 hours. Intense itching, especially at night. Burrows under skin resemble wavy lines, often found in space between fingers, on inside of wrist, at elbows, armpits and beltline. May have raised, fluid-filled blisters. Communicable from beginning of infestation through completion of first treatment. Second treatment required in 7-10 days in most instances. Exclude

until student and all their household contacts are treated once.

STREP THROAT/SCARLET FEVER (Streptococcal Infections)

Incubation: 1-3 days. Fever, red throat, tender and swollen glands. Symptoms are variable and may begin with headache or stomachache. With scarlet fever, may also have rash on skin and inside of mouth, strawberry tongue. High fever, nausea and vomiting may occur. Communicable until 24 hours of antibiotic therapy is completed. Exclude until 24 hours of antibiotic therapy is completed.

WHOOPIING COUGH (Pertussis)

Incubation: 7-21 days, usually 10 days. Cough, worse at night with characteristic whoop developing in 2 weeks. Spells of coughing may end with vomiting. Fever present with watery nasal discharge. Transmitted through direct contact with respiratory secretions of infected person. Communicable 7 days after exposure for as long as 3-4 weeks after onset of whooping in untreated children; 5-10 days after onset of appropriate treatment. Exclude until 5 days after onset of antibiotic therapy or until symptoms have cleared.

CHICKENPOX

Incubation: 10-21 days. Skin rash, which progresses to blisters, then scabs. Eruptions occur in crops, so all three stages may be present simultaneously. Covered body areas are often most affected. Communicable 1-2 days before rash appears, until ALL lesions have crusted, usually 7 days. May return to school when all scabs are crusted.

CROUP

Incubation: 2-9 days depending on causative agent. Acute respiratory infection involving epiglottis, larynx, trachea and bronchi. May cause respiratory distress ranging from mild to severe. Cough has barking or brassy harsh quality. May notice a high-pitched sound on inhalation. Communicable during duration of disease. Exclude when fever present or if child is uncomfortable. Medical attention is necessary as major complications can occur.

FIFTH DISEASE (Erythema Infectiosum)

Incubation: 4-14 days, usually 12-14 days. Bright red rash usually beginning on face (slapped cheek appearance), spreads to trunk and extremities with a lacy appearance. Generally clears in one week, recurs for up to one month if person gets warm or upset. Communicable 5 days before rash appears and to a lesser extent 2 days after rash appears. Exclusion is not appropriate once diagnosis is known unless child is febrile or uncomfortable. Pregnant women, if exposed, should consult

their physician regarding potential risks.

HAND, FOOT, MOUTH DISEASE (Coxsackievirus)

Incubation: 3-6 days. Raised rash, particularly on palms, soles and area around mouth. Progresses to blisters, then scabs. Also causes sores inside mouth, making swallowing painful. Communicable virus found in stool while sores are present and for about one month after they disappear. Oral secretions are infectious while sores are present. Exclude when fever present or if child is uncomfortable. Wash and disinfect or discard articles soiled with nose, throat or fecal discharge. Give careful attention to hand washing after handling these items.

IMPETIGO

Incubation: 2-10 days, occasionally longer. Blister-like, pus-filled bumps which progress to yellowish crusted, painless sores with irregular outlines. Itching is common. Usually found on exposed skin areas. Communicable as long as drainage is present. Exclude from school until 24 hours of treatment by physician completed and sores begin to heal.

Disclaimer: The distribution of this notice is not mandated by school policy or state law and is done so at the discretion of the school health team as a professional courtesy.

Source: Ohio Department of Health