

# School exclusion table for primary school and children's services

- The [Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019](#) contain several statutory obligations relating to primary schools and children's services exclusions for infectious diseases.
- There have been some minor updates to the diseases and exclusion periods in the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019.
- Exclusions may apply to cases (children with particular infections) and contacts (children who have been exposed to particular infections).
- The exclusion periods are the minimum times a child must be excluded from primary school or a children's service such as childcare centre or kindergarten.
- Children's services describe the terms 'education and care service premises or children's services centre' used in the regulations. It includes centres such as childcare centres and kindergartens.

## Exclusion periods table

The minimum period of exclusion from primary schools and children's services for infectious diseases cases and contacts (Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019, Schedule 7)

Conditions	Exclusion of cases
Chickenpox	Exclude until all blisters have dried. This is usually at least 5 days after the rash appears in unimmunised children, but may be less in previously immunised children
Conjunctivitis	Exclude until discharge from eyes has ceased
Cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection	Exclusion is not necessary
Diarrhoeal illness	In an outbreak of gastroenteritis, exclude until there has not been vomiting or a loose bowel motion for 48 hours, and for all other diarrhoeal illnesses exclude until there has not been vomiting or a loose bowel motion for 24 hours
Diphtheria	Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is received following at least two negative throat swabs, the first not less than 24 hours after finishing a course of antibiotics and the other 48 hours later
Glandular fever	Exclusion is not necessary
Hand, Foot and Mouth disease	Exclude until all blisters have dried
Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)	Exclude until 48 hours after initiation of effective therapy
Hepatitis A	Exclude until a medical certificate of recovery is received, but not before 7 days after the onset of jaundice or illness
Hepatitis B	Exclusion is not necessary
Hepatitis C	Exclusion is not necessary
Herpes (cold sores)	Young children unable to comply with good hygiene practices should be excluded while the lesion is weeping. Lesions to be covered by dressing, where possible
Human immunodeficiency virus infection (HIV)	Exclusion is not necessary
Impetigo	Exclude until appropriate treatment has commenced. Sores on exposed surfaces must be covered with a watertight dressing
Influenza and influenza like illnesses	Exclude until well
Leprosy	Exclude until approval to return has been given by the Chief Health Officer
Measles	Exclude for at least 4 days after onset of rash
Meningitis (bacterial other than meningococcal meningitis)	Exclude until well
Meningococcal infection	Exclude until adequate carrier eradication therapy has been completed
Mumps	Exclude for 5 days or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner)
Molluscum contagiosum	Exclusion is not necessary
Pertussis (Whooping cough)	Exclude the child for 21 days after the onset of cough or until they have completed 5 days of a course of antibiotic treatment
Poliovirus infection	Exclude for at least 14 days from onset. Re admit after receiving medical certificate of recovery
Ringworm, scabies, pediculosis (head lice)	Exclude until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced
Rubella (German measles)	Exclude until fully recovered or for at least four days after the onset of rash
Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)	Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is produced
Shiga toxin or Verotoxin producing Escherichia coli (STEC or VTEC)	Exclude if required by the Chief Health Officer and only for the period specified by the Chief Health Officer
Streptococcal infection (including scarlet fever)	Exclude until the child has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and the child feels well
Tuberculosis (excluding latent tuberculosis)	Exclude until receipt of a medical certificate from the treating physician stating that the child is not considered to be infectious
Typhoid fever (including paratyphoid fever)	Exclude until approval to return has been given by the Chief Health Officer