

Exclusion from Child Care, Preschool and School

The spread of certain infectious diseases can be reduced by excluding a person, known to be infectious, from contact with others who are at risk of catching the infection.

The need for exclusion depends on:

- > 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.

A person who is not excluded may still need to remain at home because they do not feel well.

Recommended exclusion periods are based on the time that a person with a specific disease or condition might be infectious to others.

Recommended non-exclusion means that there is not a significant risk of transmitting infection to others.

The following are recommended minimum periods of exclusion from school, preschool and child care centres for cases of, and contact with, infectious diseases based on guidelines issued by the National Health and Medical Research Council in December 2005 and the ninth edition of the *Australian Immunisation Handbook*. These guidelines can also be applied to the general community and most workplaces.

However, if a child care worker has gastroenteritis, the exclusion period is for at least 48 hours after the vomiting and/or diarrhoea have ceased.

Recommended exclusion periods from child care, preschool and school

| Disease or condition | Exclusion of case | Exclusion of contacts |
|---|--|---|
| Amoebiasis (<i>Entamoeba histolytica</i>) | Exclude until no diarrhoea for 24 hours | Not excluded |
| Campylobacter infection | Exclude until no diarrhoea for 24 hours | Not excluded |
| Candidiasis | See Thrush | |
| Chickenpox | See Varicella-Zoster | |
| Cytomegalovirus infection (CMV) | Exclusion is NOT necessary | Not excluded |
| Conjunctivitis | Exclude until discharge from eyes has stopped (unless doctor has diagnosed non-infectious conjunctivitis) | Not excluded |
| Cryptosporidium infection | Exclude until no diarrhoea for 24 hours | Not excluded |
| Diarrhoea (no organism identified) | Exclude until no diarrhoea for 24 hours | Not excluded |
| 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 next 48 hours later | Exclude contacts living in same house until cleared to return by appropriate health authority |

Exclusion from Child Care, Preschool and School (cont.)

| Disease or condition | Exclusion of case | Exclusion of contacts |
|--|---|-----------------------|
| Food poisoning | Exclude until well – no vomiting or diarrhoea for 24 hours | Not excluded |
| Giardiasis | Exclude until no diarrhoea for 24 hours | Not excluded |
| Glandular fever (infectious mononucleosis, EBV infection) | Exclusion is NOT necessary | Not excluded |
| Hand, foot and mouth disease | Exclude until all blisters are dry | Not excluded |
| <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b (Hib) | Exclude until person has received appropriate antibiotic treatment for at least 4 days | Not excluded |
| Head lice (pediculosis) | Exclude until appropriate treatment has commenced | Not excluded |
| Hepatitis A | Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is received, and until at least 7 days after onset of jaundice or illness | Not excluded |
| Hepatitis B | Exclusion is NOT necessary | Not excluded |
| Hepatitis C | Exclusion is NOT necessary | Not excluded |
| Herpes simplex (cold sores, fever blisters) | Young children and others unable to comply with good hygiene practices should be excluded while lesion is weeping. Lesions should be covered by a dressing where possible | Not excluded |
| Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV/AIDS) | Exclusion is NOT necessary. If the person is severely immunocompromised they will be vulnerable to other people's infections | Not excluded |
| Hydatid disease | Exclusion is NOT necessary | Not excluded |
| Impetigo | See School sores | |
| Influenza and influenza-like illnesses | Exclude until well | Not excluded |
| Legionnaires' disease | Exclusion is NOT necessary | Not excluded |
| Leprosy | Exclude until approval to return has been given by an appropriate health authority | Not excluded |

Exclusion from Child Care, Preschool and School (cont.)

| Disease or condition | Exclusion of case | Exclusion of contacts |
|---|---|--|
| Measles | Exclude for at least 4 days after the onset of the rash | Immunised and immune contacts are not excluded. Non-immunised contacts of a case to be excluded from child care until 14 days after first appearance of rash in last case, unless immunised within 72 hours of first exposure during infectious period with first case. All immunocompromised children should be excluded until 14 days after first day of appearance of rash in last case |
| Meningitis (bacterial) | Exclude until well and has received appropriate antibiotics | Not excluded |
| Meningitis (viral) | Exclude until well | Not excluded |
| Meningococcal infection | Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment completed and until well | Not excluded |
| Molluscum contagiosum | Exclusion is NOT necessary | Not excluded |
| Methicillin resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (MRSA) skin infection | Exclusion is NOT necessary unless infected skin lesions on exposed surfaces cannot be completely covered with a dressing. | Not excluded |
| Mumps | Exclude for 9 days after onset of swelling | Not excluded |
| Norovirus | See Viral gastroenteritis | |
| Parvovirus infection (Fifth disease, erythema infectiosum, slapped cheek syndrome) | Exclusion is NOT necessary | Not excluded, but people who are anaemic, immunocompromised, or pregnant should be informed of possible risk of getting infection |
| Pertussis | See Whooping cough | |
| Respiratory Syncytial Virus | Exclusion is NOT necessary | Not excluded |
| Ringworm/tinea | Exclude until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced | Not excluded |
| Ross River virus | Exclusion is NOT necessary | Not excluded |
| Rotavirus infection | Exclude until no diarrhoea for 24 hours | Not excluded |
| Rubella (German measles) | Exclude until fully recovered or for at least 4 days after the onset of the rash | Not excluded |
| <i>Salmonella</i> infection | Exclude until no diarrhoea for 24 hours | Not excluded |

Exclusion from Child Care, Preschool and School (cont.)

| Disease or condition | Exclusion of case | Exclusion of contacts |
|--|---|--|
| Scabies | Exclude until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced | Not excluded |
| Scarlet fever | See Streptococcal sore throat | |
| School sores (impetigo) | Exclude until appropriate treatment has commenced. Any sores on exposed surfaces should be completely covered with a dressing | Not excluded |
| Shigella infection | Exclude until no diarrhoea for 24 hours | Not excluded |
| Shingles | See Varicella-Zoster | |
| Streptococcal sore throat (including scarlet fever) | Exclude until the person has received appropriate antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and feels well | Not excluded |
| Thrush (candidiasis) | Exclusion is NOT necessary | Not excluded |
| Toxoplasmosis | Exclusion is NOT necessary | Not excluded |
| Tuberculosis (TB) | Exclude until medical certificate is produced from appropriate health authority | Not excluded |
| Typhoid, Paratyphoid | Exclude until approval to return has been given by an appropriate health authority | Not excluded unless considered necessary by public health authorities |
| Varicella-Zoster (chickenpox and shingles) | Exclude until all blisters have dried (usually 5 days) | Any child with an immune deficiency (for example, leukaemia) or receiving chemotherapy should be excluded for their own protection. Otherwise, not excluded |
| Viral gastroenteritis (viral diarrhoea) | Exclude until no diarrhoea for 24 hours | Not excluded |
| Warts (common, flat and plantar) | Exclusion is NOT necessary | Not excluded |
| Whooping cough (pertussis) | Exclude from child care, school or workplace and similar settings until 5 days after starting antibiotic treatment, or for 21 days from the onset of coughing | Household and child care contacts (in the same child care group) of the case who have received < 3 doses of a pertussis containing vaccine should be excluded from child care for 14 days from the last exposure to the infectious cases, unless they have already completed 5 days of recommended antibiotic treatment, in which case they may return |
| Worms | Exclude if diarrhoea present | Not excluded |
| Yersinia infection | Exclude until no diarrhoea for 24 hours | Not excluded |