

# Minimum period of exclusion from primary schools and children's services<sup>1</sup> for infectious diseases cases and contacts

Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019

## Schedule 7

| Column 1<br>Number | Column 2<br>Conditions   | Column 3<br>Exclusion of cases  | Column 4<br>Exclusion of Contacts   |
|--------------------|--|---|---|
| 1                  | 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                                       | Any child with an immune deficiency (for example, leukaemia) or receiving chemotherapy should be excluded for their own protection. Otherwise not excluded  |
| 2                  | Conjunctivitis   | Exclude until discharge from eyes has ceased  | Not excluded  |
| 3                  | Cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection                                    | Exclusion is not necessary  | Not excluded  |
| 4                  | Diarrhoeal illness*  | Exclude until there has not been vomiting or a loose bowel motion for 24 hours  | Not excluded  |
| 5                  | 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 | Exclude family/household contacts until cleared to return by the Chief Health Officer   |
| 6                  | Glandular fever (Epstein-Barr Virus infection)                     | Exclusion is not necessary  | Not excluded  |
| 7                  | Hand, Foot and Mouth disease                                       | Exclude until all blisters have dried   | Not excluded  |
| 8                  | Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)                                | Exclude until 48 hours after initiation of effective therapy  | Not excluded  |
| 9                  | Hepatitis A  | Exclude until a medical certificate of recovery is received, but not before 7 days after the onset of jaundice or illness   | Not excluded  |
| 10                 | Hepatitis B  | Exclusion is not necessary  | Not excluded  |
| 11                 | Hepatitis C  | Exclusion is not necessary  | Not excluded  |
| 12                 | 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   | Not excluded  |
| 13                 | Human immuno-deficiency virus infection (HIV)                      | Exclusion is not necessary  | Not excluded  |
| 14                 | Impetigo   | Exclude until appropriate treatment has commenced. Sores on exposed surfaces must be covered with a watertight dressing   | Not excluded  |
| 15                 | Influenza and influenza like illnesses                             | Exclude until well  | Not excluded unless considered necessary by the Chief Health Officer  |
| 16                 | Leprosy  | Exclude until approval to return has been given by the Chief Health Officer   | Not excluded  |
| 17                 | Measles  | Exclude for at least 4 days after onset of rash   | Immunised contacts not excluded. Unimmunised contacts should be excluded until 14 days after the first day of appearance of rash in the last case. If unimmunised contacts are vaccinated within 72 hours of exposure with any infectious case, or received Normal Human Immunoglobulin (NHIG) within 144 hours of exposure of any infectious case, they may return to the facility |
| 18                 | Meningitis (bacterial —other than meningococcal meningitis)        | Exclude until well  | Not excluded  |
| 19                 | Meningococcal infection  | Exclude until adequate carrier eradication therapy has been completed   | Not excluded if receiving carrier eradication therapy   |
| 20                 | Mumps  | Exclude for 5 days or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner)  | Not excluded  |
| 21                 | Molluscum contagiosum  | Exclusion is not necessary  | Not excluded  |
| 22                 | 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  | Contacts aged less than 7 years in the same room as the case who have not received three effective doses of pertussis vaccine should be excluded for 14 days after the last exposure to the infectious case, or until they have taken 5 days of a course of effective antibiotic treatment  |
| 23                 | Poliovirus infection   | Exclude for at least 14 days from onset. Re-admit after receiving medical certificate of recovery   | Not excluded  |
| 24                 | Ringworm, scabies, pediculosis (head lice)                         | Exclude until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced   | Not excluded  |
| 25                 | Rubella (German measles)   | Exclude until fully recovered or for at least four days after the onset of rash   | Not excluded  |
| 26                 | Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)                           | Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is produced   | Not excluded unless considered necessary by the Chief Health Officer  |
| 27                 | 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   | Not excluded  |
| 28                 | Streptococcal infection (including scarlet fever)                  | Exclude until the child has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and the child feels well  | Not excluded  |
| 29                 | 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  | Not excluded  |
| 30                 | Typhoid fever (including paratyphoid fever)                        | Exclude until approval to return has been given by the Chief Health Officer   | Not excluded unless considered necessary by the Chief Health Officer  |

### Regulation 111

A person in charge of a primary school, education and care service premises or children's services centre must not allow a child to attend the primary school, education and care service premises or children's services centre for the period or in the circumstances:

\* specified in column 3 of the Table in Schedule 7 if the person in charge has been informed that the child is infected with an infectious disease listed in column 2 of that Table; or

\* specified in column 4 of the Table in Schedule 7 if the person in charge has been informed that the child has been in contact with a person who is infected with an infectious disease listed in column 2 of that Table.

\*Diarrhoeal illness includes instances where certain pathogens are identified including Amebiasis (*Entamoeba histolytica*), Campylobacter spp., Salmonella spp., Shigella spp. and intestinal worms, but is not limited to infection with these pathogens.

### Further information

Please contact the Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Section on 1300 651 160 or visit [www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/school-exclusion](http://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/infectious-diseases/school-exclusion)

<sup>1</sup> Children's services cover 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.