



School exclusion table

Key messages

- 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 describes 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.

Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019 (regulation 111)

On the 14 December 2019, the Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2019 replaced the previously existing regulations. The updated exclusion requirements for cases and contacts are found in Schedule 7 of the regulations, and are reproduced below. They are also available on a [table on a page](#). Key changes are described in the information sheet "[Immunisation and exclusions \(schools and children's services\)](#)".

Primary schools and children's services such as child care centres and kindergartens are settings where there can be an increased risk for transmission of certain infectious diseases.

If you are in charge of a primary school or children's service, you must not allow a child to attend your primary school or children's service either:

- as specified in column 3 ('Exclusion of cases') of the table in Schedule 7 if you have been informed that the child is infected with an infectious disease listed in column 2 ('Condition') of the table, or

- as specified in column 4 ('Exclusion of contacts') of the table in Schedule 7 if you have been informed that the child has been in contact with a person who is infected with an infectious disease listed in column 2 ('Condition') of the table.

Occasionally, the Chief Health Officer may identify that a child is at material risk of contracting a vaccine-preventable disease. As a result, Chief Health Officer may direct a person in charge of a primary school or children's service to exclude that child. The Chief Health Officer will then direct when attendance can be resumed.

Table: Minimum period of exclusion from primary schools and children's services for infectious diseases cases and contacts (Public Health and Wellbeing Regulations 2010, Schedule 7)

Number	Conditions	Exclusion of cases	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

Measles

Meningitis
(bacterial other
than
meningococcal
meningitis)

Meningococcal
infection

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
exclude until well	Not excluded
exclude until adequate carrier eradication therapy has been completed	Not excluded if receiving carrier eradication therapy
Mumps	Not excluded
Exclude for 5 days or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner)	
Molluscum contagiosum	Not excluded
Exclude is not necessary	
Pertussis (Whooping cough)	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

Poliovirus
infection

Ringworm,
scabies,
pediculosis
(head lice)

Rubell
(Germ
measle)

DD

Severe Acute
Respiratory
Syndrome
(SARS)

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

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Exclude for at least 14 days from onset. Re admit after receiving medical certificate of recovery	Not excluded
Not excluded	
Exclude if appropriate comment	
Not excluded	
Exclude if for at least	
Exclude until medical certificateonset of recovery is reduced	Not excluded unless considered necessary by the Chief Health Officer

Streptococcal
infection
(including scarlet
fever)

Tuberculosis
(excluding latent
tuberculosis)

Typhoid fever
(including
paratyphoid
fever)

2
ff

Exclude until receipt of a medical certificate from the treating physician stating that the child is not considered to be infectious

Exclude until approval to return has been given by the Chief Health Officer

excluded unless considered necessary by the Chief Health

Explanatory notes:

- 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.
- 'Medical certificate' means a certificate of a registered medical practitioner.
- Exclusion of cases and contacts is not necessary for latent tuberculosis.

Contact details

Communicable Disease Section

Department of Health and Human Services

Do not email patient notifications.

Tel. 1300 651 160 or Fax 1300 651 170

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Exclude until the child has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and the child feels well	Not excluded
Excluded until receipt of a	Not excluded

infectious.diseases@dhhs.vic.gov.au

50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000 || GPO Box 4057, Melbourne, Victoria 3000

Notification procedures

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<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au:443/public-health/infectious-diseases/school-exclusion/school-exclusion-table>

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