

ITEM INFECTIOUS DISEASES – EXCLUSIONS FROM SCHOOL

POLICY The Northern Territory Department of Employment, Education and Training in consultation with Territory Health Services has developed guidelines on recommended minimum periods of exclusion from school or preschool for infectious diseases cases and contacts.

These guidelines support the *National Health and Medical Research Council Guidelines* as well as Northern Territory Legislation, i.e. the *NT Notifiable Diseases Act 1985*.

These measures are designed to protect students as well as to reduce the likelihood of the spread of infection through the school and the wider community.

Important Notes

- Children who are unwell should not be allowed to attend school. These guidelines have been drawn up on the premise that children who have been ill with an infectious disease will not return to school until they have fully recovered. The only exception to this rule is that children with certain skin diseases may return once appropriate treatment has commenced (see below).
- These recommended periods are issued as a guide to teaching staff and medical/health practitioners, and may be modified in individual cases as circumstances warrant.
- In cases of doubt, or for guidance in cases of conditions not mentioned on the list, advice should be sought from the appropriate clinician, school medical officer or medical officer of Territory Health Services. Advice on possible preventative measures should be sought by boarding institutions in cases where infectious diseases occur amongst children housed in dormitory-type accommodation.

In addition, the Northern Territory School Sports Council (NTSSC) has an Infectious Diseases Policy which addresses the issue of infectious diseases when conducting sporting programs. This policy incorporates a number of national sports agencies' policies and may be a useful guide for Principals.

For more detailed information please refer to the *Health and Medical Manual* developed by Student Services or contact the Principal Nursing Officer on 8999 _____.

Contact Officer Director
 Student Services Branch

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Infectious diseases – Exclusions from school

Disease or condition	Exclusion of case from school or work	Exclusion of contacts from school or work
Bronchitis	Exclude until the person has been given appropriate treatment and feels well.	Not excluded
Campylobacter infection	Exclude until diarrhoea has ceased.	Not excluded
Chickenpox (varicella) and shingles (herpes zoster)	Exclude until all lesions have crusted, there are no moist sores and the person feels well. In chickenpox, some remaining scabs are not an indication for continued exclusion. Readmit when fully recovered from shingles.	Any child with an immune deficiency, e.g. leukemia or receiving chemotherapy should be excluded for their own protection.
Common cold	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Conjunctivitis	Exclude during the acute stage of the infection—readmit when discharge has ceased.	Not excluded
Cryptosporidiosis	Exclude until diarrhoea has ceased.	Not excluded
Diphtheria	Readmit after receipt of medical certificate of recovery, after at least two negative nose and throat swabs.	Exclude household contacts or on release by Public Health Medical Officer.
Encephalitis	No exclusion periods unless due to measles, in which case exclude until fully recovered.	
Fifth disease (erythema infectiosum, parvovirus infection)	Exclusion NOT necessary	Not necessary
Giardia lamblia (giardiasis), campylobacter, cryptosporidiosis, salmonella	Readmit once diarrhoea ceases. Giardia: exclude until treatment and diarrhoea have ceased.	Not excluded
Glandular fever (mononucleosis)	Exclusion NOT necessary	Not excluded

Disease or condition	Exclusion of case from school or work	Exclusion of contacts from school or work
Haemophilus influenzae B (Hib)	Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is received.	Not excluded. Contact public health authorities regarding need for preventative antibiotics for family and child-care contacts.
Hand, foot and mouth disease	Exclude until all blisters have dried.	Not excluded
Head lice (pediculosis)	Exclude until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced.	Not excluded
Hepatitis A (infectious hepatitis)	Exclude for seven days after onset of jaundice or illness and receipt of a medical certificate.	Not excluded
Hepatitis B	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Hepatitis C and D	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Herpes simplex type 1 (cold sores or fever blisters)	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Impetigo (school sores)	Readmit when sores fully healed or if appropriate treatment being applied and exposed sores are fully covered with occlusive dressings.	Not excluded
Legionnaire's disease	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Leprosy	Exclude until approval to return has been given by the appropriate health authority.	Not excluded
Measles	Exclude from non-immunised persons for at least four days after the onset of the rash or until a medical certificate of recovery is produced. A notifiable disease, suspected cases must be seen by a doctor to confirm diagnosis, Disease Control Centre must be notified.	Immunised contacts not excluded. Non-immunised contacts should be excluded for fourteen days for first day of appearance of rash in the last case. If non-immunised contacts are vaccinated within seventy-two hours of contact with index case, they may return to school.

Disease or condition	Exclusion of case from school or work	Exclusion of contacts from school or work
Meningitis (Bacterial)	Exclude until well. If Hib refer above.	Not excluded. Contact public health authorities regarding need for preventative antibiotics for family and child-care contacts.
Meningococcal meningitis	Exclude until well	Not excluded
Mumps	Exclude for nine days or until swelling goes down (whichever is sooner).	Not excluded
Poliomyelitis	Should be excluded for at least fourteen days from onset. Readmit on medical certificate of recovery.	Need not be excluded, non-immunised contacts should be directed to health clinic.
Psittacosis (ornithosis)	Exclusion NOT necessary	Not excluded
Ringworm, trachoma, fleas, worms	Readmit when appropriate treatment has commenced, supported when requested by medical certificate. Ringworm: readmit when exposed areas are treated and covered with dressing.	Not excluded. Close contacts should be inspected regularly for signs of infestation or infection.
Ross River virus (epidemic polyarthrititis – EPA)	Readmit on receipt of medical certificate of recovery, or on subsidence of symptoms.	Not excluded
Rotovirus infection	Readmit on receipt of medical certificate of recovery or diarrhoea or vomiting has ceased.	Not excluded
Rubella (German measles)	Exclude until fully recovered or for at least four days after the onset of the rash.	Not excluded. Note female staff of child-bearing age should ensure that their immune status against rubella is adequate.
Scabies	Readmit after completion of the first treatment (twenty-four hours) treatment should be repeated after one week.	Not excluded
Scarlet fever (see streptococcal infection)		

Disease or condition	Exclusion of case from school or work	Exclusion of contacts from school or work
School sores (see impetigo)		
Shigella infection	Exclude until diarrhoea has ceased.	Not excluded
Streptococcal infection (including scarlet fever)	Should be excluded until person has received antibiotic treatment for at least twenty-four hours and the person 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 and paratyphoid fever. (Refer also overseas student protocol.)	Readmit on production of medical certificate from appropriate health authority following three negative faecal and urine cultures taken at least twenty-four hours apart, commencing at least seventy-two hours after cessation of specific therapy.	Not excluded unless appropriate health authority considers exclusion to be necessary.
Viral gastroenteritis (viral diarrhoea)	Exclude until diarrhoea ceases	Not excluded
Warts (common, plane and plantar)	Exclusion is not necessary	Not excluded
Whooping cough (pertussis)	Should be excluded for two weeks from onset of illness or after taking antibiotics for five days and until medical certificate stating that the child is no longer infectious.	Exclude non-immunised contacts under five years from school for fourteen days or until they have been on antibiotic treatment for at least five days of a minimum fourteen-day course of antibiotics.
Worms	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded