

Guidance on Infection Control in North Wales - Schools and Pre-School Settings

July 2013 – Review Date July 2014

If a school/pre-school in North Wales requires advice on exclusion periods / communicable diseases they are advised to do the following –

1. In the first instance a school/pre-school should refer to the information below which is relevant to both children and staff.
2. If further information is required regarding an illness and exclusion period a school/pre-school should contact the Health Protection Team, Public Health Wales in Mold: 01352 803234. (Any school should inform the school nurse of the outcome).
3. If a school/pre-school observes a higher rate of absence than is usual, they should inform the Health Protection Team – 01352 803234.
4. In cases of illness involving school staff, schools should contact their Occupational Health Team.
5. In cases where there are local/national outbreaks of illness schools/pre-schools will be informed and advised of any actions they are required to take.

Good Hygiene Practice

For guidance on good hygiene practices in relation to hand hygiene, toilet hygiene, clothing and fabrics, farm visits etc schools should refer to the 2006 Welsh Government document 'Teach Germs a Lesson' and childcare settings should refer to 'Mind the Germs' and the local 'Infection Control Audit Toolkit for Early Years Settings'.

Rashes and skin infections	Recommended period to be kept away from school and pre-school settings	Comments
Athlete's foot	None	Athletes foot is not a serious condition. Treatment is recommended
Chickenpox	Five days from the onset of rash	SEE: <i>Vulnerable Children and Pregnant Staff</i>
Cold sores, (Herpes simplex)	None	Avoid kissing and contact with the sores. Cold sores are generally mild and self-limiting.
German measles (rubella)	Six days from onset of rash	Preventable by immunisation (MMR x 2 doses). SEE: <i>Pregnant Staff</i>
Hand, foot and mouth	None	Contact your local Health Protection Team if a large number of children are affected. Exclusion may be considered in some circumstances
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted and healed, or 48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment	Antibiotic treatment speeds healing and reduces the infectious period
Measles	Four days from onset of rash	Preventable by vaccination (MMR x 2). SEE: <i>Vulnerable Children and Pregnant Staff</i>
Molluscum contagiosum	None	A self-limiting condition
Ringworm	Exclusion not usually required	Treatment is required
Roseola (infantum)	None	None
Scabies	Child can return after first treatment	Household and close contacts require treatment
Scarlet fever	Child can return 24 hours after commencing appropriate antibiotic treatment	Antibiotic treatment recommended for the affected child
Slapped cheek / fifth disease. Parvovirus B19	None	SEE: <i>Vulnerable Children Pregnant Staff</i>
Shingles	Exclude only if rash is weeping and cannot be covered	Can cause chickenpox in those who are not immune i.e. have not had chickenpox. It is spread by very close contact and touch. If further information is required, contact the Health Protection Team. SEE: <i>Vulnerable Children and Female Staff – Pregnancy</i>
Warts and Verrucae	None	Verrucae should be covered in swimming pools, gymnasiums and changing rooms

Diarrhoea and vomiting illness	Recommended period to be kept away from school and pre-school settings	Comments
Diarrhoea and/or vomiting	48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting	
<i>E. coli</i> O157 VTEC	Should be excluded for 48 hours from the last episode of Diarrhoea	Further exclusion may be required for young children under five and those who have difficulty in adhering to hygiene practices
Typhoid [and paratyphoid] (enteric fever)	Further exclusion may be required for some children until they are no longer excreting	This guidance may also apply to some contacts who may require microbiological clearance
Shigella (dysentery)		Please consult your local Health Protection Team for further advice
Cryptosporidiosis	Exclude for 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea	Exclusion from swimming is advisable for two weeks after the diarrhoea has settled

Respiratory infections	Recommended period to be kept away from school and pre-school settings	Comments
'Flu (influenza)	Until recovered	SEE: <i>Vulnerable Children</i>
Tuberculosis	Always consult the Health Protection Team	Requires prolonged close contact for spread
Whooping cough (pertussis)	Five days from commencing antibiotic treatment, or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment	Preventable by vaccination. After treatment, non-infectious coughing may continue for many weeks. The Health Protection Team will organise any contact tracing necessary.