



Guidance on infection control & exclusions in schools/childcare settings

This poster has been created using the UK Health Security Agency ‘Health protection in children and young people settings, including education’ guidance.

For further information and advice please contact your local UKHSA Cumbria and Lancashire HPT on **0344 225 0562** or visit

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-health-security-agency

Infection	Exclusion Period	Comments
Athlete’s foot	No exclusion required	You do not need to contact your health protection team.
Chickenpox*	Infected people should stay away from the setting until 5 days after the rash first appears.	Only contact your local health protection team if scarlet fever and chickenpox are circulating at your setting at the same time within the same group. Pregnant contacts of case should consult with their GP or midwife.
Chlamydia	No exclusion required	You do not need to contact your health protection team.
Cold sores, (Herpes simplex)	No exclusion required	Avoid kissing and contact with the sores. You do not need to contact your local health protection team.
Genital herpes	No exclusion required	You do not need to contact your local health protection team.
Genital warts and human Papillomavirus (HPV)	No exclusion required	You do not need to contact your health protection team.
Gonorrhoea	No exclusion required	You do not need to contact your local health protection team.
Hand, foot and mouth	No exclusion required	You do not need to contact your health protection team. Pregnant contacts of case should consult with their GP or midwife.
Impetigo	Infected people should stay away from the setting until all blisters have formed scabs or 2 days after starting antibiotics.	You do not need to contact your local health protection team.
Measles*	Infected people should stay away from the setting until 4 days after their rash started.	Contact your local health protection team. Pregnant staff contacts should seek prompt advice from their GP or midwife.
Mpox*	Infected people should stay away from the setting until their healthcare professional confirms its safe for them to return.	Contact your local health protection team. Pregnant contacts of case should consult with their GP or midwife.
Ringworm	Infected people should stay away from the setting until they have started treatment.	You do not need to contact your local health protection team.
Rubella (German measles)*	Infected people should stay away from the setting until 5 days after their rash started.	You do not need to contact your local health protection team. Pregnant contacts of case should consult with their GP or midwife.
Scabies	Infected people who are aged 5 and under, or cannot follow the guidance, should stayaway from setting until24 hours after their first treatment.	Only contact your local health protection team if there are 2or more people at your setting with scabies who are linked.
Scarlet fever*	Infected people should stay away from the setting until 24 hours after they started antibiotics treatment.	Only contact your local health protection team if scarlet fever, chickenpox, or flu are circulating at your setting within the same group at the same time who are linked.
Shingles	Infected people should stay away from the setting if their spots cannot be covered or have not formed scabs.	You do not need to contact your local health protection team.
Slapped cheek/fifth disease. Parvovirus B19	No exclusion required	You do not need to contact your local health protection team. Pregnant contacts of case should consult with their GP or midwife.

Cryptosporidiosis	Infected people should stay away from the setting until 2 days after diarrhoea and vomiting has stopped.	Only contact your local health protection team if there are 2 or more cases at your setting with similar symptoms who are linked.
Diarrhoea and/or vomiting	Infected people should stay away from the setting until 2 days after diarrhoea and vomiting has stopped.	Only contact your local health protection team if you need further specialist advice.
E. coli (STEC)*	Infected people should stay away from the setting for 2 days, children under 6 should stay away until it’s been confirmed safe to return by their healthcare professional.	Contact your local health protection team.
Food poisoning*	Infected people should stay away until2 days after diarrhoea and vomiting has stopped.	Only contact your local health protection team if there are 2 or more people at your setting with similar symptoms who are linked.
Giardiasis	Infected people should stay away from the setting until 2 days after their diarrhoea has stopped.	Only contact your local health protection team if there are 2 or more infected people at your setting who are linked.

*** Denotes a notifiable disease.** Registered medical practitioners in England and Wales have a statutory duty to notify their local authority or UKHSA HPT of suspected cases of certain infectious diseases.

For more information visit: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/notifiable-diseases-and-how-to-report-them>

Outbreaks: An outbreak is defined as two or more cases with similar symptoms over and above that which would normally be expected. If an outbreak of infectious disease is suspected, please contact your local UKHSA HPT.

Infection	Exclusion Period	Comments
Norovirus	Infected people should stay away from the setting until 2 days after their diarrhoea and vomiting has stopped.	Only contact your local health protection team if you need further specialist advice.
Rotavirus	Infected people should stay away from the setting until 2 days after diarrhoea and vomiting has stopped.	You do not need to contact your local health protection team.
Typhoid fever and paratyphoid fever*	Infected people should stay away from the setting until 2 days after diarrhoea and vomiting has stopped.	Contact your local health protection team.

Flu (influenza)	Infected people should stay away from the setting until they are better and no longer have a temperature.	Only contact your local health protection team if there is increasing absence or serious illness.
COVID-19*	Infected people should stay away from the setting if they have more than mild symptoms, for example, a high temperature.	Only contact your local Health protection team if there’s an unusually high number of absences, or if someone is admitted to hospital because of COVID-19.
Respiratory infections	Infected people should stay away from the setting if they have more than mild symptoms, for example, a high temperature.	Only contact your local health protection team if there’s an unusually high number of absences due to respiratory infections or there’s a serious case at your setting.
Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	Infected people should stay away from the setting if they have more than mild symptoms, for example, a high temperature.	Only contact your local health protection team if there’s an unusually high number of absences or there’s a serious case at your setting.
Tuberculosis (TB)*	Infected people with active TB should stay away from the setting until 2 weeks after they started antibiotics treatment.	Contact your local health protection team if anyone at your setting has TB or suspected TB.
Whooping cough* (pertussis)	Infected people should stay away from the setting until they have taken antibiotics for 2 days, or for 21 days from onset of symptoms if no antibiotics.	Only contact your local health protection team if there are more than 2 cases at your setting who are linked. Pregnant contacts of case should consult with their GP or midwife.

Conjunctivitis (pink eye)	No exclusion required	You do not need to contact your local health protection team.
Diphtheria*	Infected people should stay away from the setting until it’s been confirmed safe to return by their healthcare professional.	Contact your local health protection team.
Glandular fever	No exclusion required	You do not need to contact your local health protection team.
Group A strep (GAS) and invasive group A strep (iGAS)*	Infected people should stay away from the setting until 24hours after they started antibiotics treatment.	Only contact your local health protection team if anyone has invasive group A strep.
Head lice (nits)	No exclusion required	You do not need to contact your local health protection team.
Hepatitis A	Infected people should stay away from the setting until 7 days after their symptoms started.	Only contact your local health protection team if there are 2 or more infected people at your setting who are linked.
Hepatitis B, C, HIV	None	Hepatitis B, C and HIV are blood borne viruses that are not infectious through casual contact. Contact your local UKHSA HPT for more advice.
Meningitis and Meningococcal meningitis*	Infected people should stay away from the setting until they do not have symptoms.	Contact your local health protection team.
MRSA	No exclusion required	You do not need to contact your local health protection team.
Mumps*	Infected people should stay away from the setting until 5 days after onset of swelling.	Only contact your local health protection team if there’s an outbreak at your setting.
PVL-SA	Infected people should stay away from the setting if they have any wounds that cannot be covered with a plaster or bandage.	Only contact your local health protection team if there are 2 or more cases at your setting.
Threadworms	No exclusion required	You do not need to contact your local health protection team.

STAFF HEALTH

Female Staff – Pregnancy: The greatest risk to pregnant women from such infections comes from their own child/children, rather than the workplace. Some specific risks are:

- Chickenpox
- Slapped cheek disease
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella (German measles)

If a pregnant woman develops a rash or is in direct contact with someone with a potentially infectious rash, she should consult her GP or Midwife. **Please note:** This advice also applies to pregnant students.

Staff Exclusions: Staff should follow the same rules as are applied to children. They may return to work when they are no longer infectious, provided they feel well enough to do so.

Food handling staff suffering from infections must be excluded from all food handling activity in the setting until advised by the local Environmental Health Officer that they are clear to return.

¹ For more information on managing outbreaks, incidents and cleaning see www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/managing-outbreaks-and-incidents