

Exclusion from Child Care, Preschool and School

The spread of certain infectious diseases can be reduced by excluding a person, known to be infectious, from contact with others who are at risk of catching the infection.

The need for exclusion depends on:

- > the ease with which the infection can be spread
- > the ability of the infected person to follow hygiene precautions
- > whether or not the person has some immunity to the infection (either from vaccination or past infection)
- > to a lesser extent, the severity of the disease.

A person who is not excluded may still need to remain at home because they do not feel well.

Recommended exclusion periods are based on the time that a person with a specific disease or condition might be infectious to others.

Recommended non-exclusion means that there is not a significant risk of transmitting infection to others.

The following are recommended minimum periods of exclusion from school, preschool and child care centres for cases of, and contact with, infectious diseases based on guidelines issued by the National Health and Medical Research Council in December 2005 and the ninth edition of the *Australian Immunisation Handbook*. These guidelines can also be applied to the general community and most workplaces.

However, if a child care worker has gastroenteritis, the exclusion period is for at least 48 hours after the vomiting and/or diarrhoea have ceased.

Recommended exclusion periods from child care, preschool and school

Disease or condition	Exclusion of case	Exclusion of contacts
Amoebiasis (<i>Entamoeba histolytica</i>)	Exclude until no diarrhoea for 24 hours	Not excluded
Campylobacter infection	Exclude until no diarrhoea for 24 hours	Not excluded
Candidiasis	See Thrush	
Chickenpox	See Varicella-Zoster	
Cytomegalovirus infection (CMV)	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Conjunctivitis	Exclude until discharge from eyes has stopped (unless doctor has diagnosed non-infectious conjunctivitis)	Not excluded
Cryptosporidium infection	Exclude until no diarrhoea for 24 hours	Not excluded
Diarrhoea (no organism identified)	Exclude until no diarrhoea for 24 hours	Not excluded
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 next 48 hours later	Exclude contacts living in same house until cleared to return by appropriate health authority

Exclusion from Child Care, Preschool and School (cont.)

Disease or condition	Exclusion of case	Exclusion of contacts
Food poisoning	Exclude until well – no vomiting or diarrhoea for 24 hours	Not excluded
Giardiasis	Exclude until no diarrhoea for 24 hours	Not excluded
Glandular fever (infectious mononucleosis, EBV infection)	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Hand, foot and mouth disease	Exclude until all blisters are dry	Not excluded
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b (Hib)	Exclude until person has received appropriate antibiotic treatment for at least 4 days	Not excluded
Head lice (pediculosis)	Exclude until appropriate treatment has commenced	Not excluded
Hepatitis A	Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is received, and until at least 7 days after onset of jaundice or illness	Not excluded
Hepatitis B	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Hepatitis C	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Herpes simplex (cold sores, fever blisters)	Young children and others unable to comply with good hygiene practices should be excluded while lesion is weeping. Lesions should be covered by a dressing where possible	Not excluded
Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV/AIDS)	Exclusion is NOT necessary. If the person is severely immunocompromised they will be vulnerable to other people's infections	Not excluded
Hydatid disease	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Impetigo	See School sores	
Influenza and influenza-like illnesses	Exclude until well	Not excluded
Legionnaires' disease	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Leprosy	Exclude until approval to return has been given by an appropriate health authority	Not excluded

Exclusion from Child Care, Preschool and School (cont.)

Disease or condition	Exclusion of case	Exclusion of contacts
Measles	Exclude for at least 4 days after the onset of the rash	Immunised and immune contacts are not excluded. Non-immunised contacts of a case to be excluded from child care until 14 days after first appearance of rash in last case, unless immunised within 72 hours of first exposure during infectious period with first case. All immunocompromised children should be excluded until 14 days after first day of appearance of rash in last case
Meningitis (bacterial)	Exclude until well and has received appropriate antibiotics	Not excluded
Meningitis (viral)	Exclude until well	Not excluded
Meningococcal infection	Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment completed and until well	Not excluded
Molluscum contagiosum	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Methicillin resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (MRSA) skin infection	Exclusion is NOT necessary unless infected skin lesions on exposed surfaces cannot be completely covered with a dressing.	Not excluded
Mumps	Exclude for 9 days after onset of swelling	Not excluded
Norovirus	See Viral gastroenteritis	
Parvovirus infection (Fifth disease, erythema infectiosum, slapped cheek syndrome)	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded, but people who are anaemic, immunocompromised, or pregnant should be informed of possible risk of getting infection
Pertussis	See Whooping cough	
Respiratory Syncytial Virus	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Ringworm/tinea	Exclude until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced	Not excluded
Ross River virus	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Rotavirus infection	Exclude until no diarrhoea for 24 hours	Not excluded
Rubella (German measles)	Exclude until fully recovered or for at least 4 days after the onset of the rash	Not excluded
<i>Salmonella</i> infection	Exclude until no diarrhoea for 24 hours	Not excluded

Exclusion from Child Care, Preschool and School (cont.)

Disease or condition	Exclusion of case	Exclusion of contacts
Scabies	Exclude until the day after appropriate treatment has commenced	Not excluded
Scarlet fever	See Streptococcal sore throat	
School sores (impetigo)	Exclude until appropriate treatment has commenced. Any sores on exposed surfaces should be completely covered with a dressing	Not excluded
Shigella infection	Exclude until no diarrhoea for 24 hours	Not excluded
Shingles	See Varicella-Zoster	
Streptococcal sore throat (including scarlet fever)	Exclude until the person has received appropriate antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and 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, Paratyphoid	Exclude until approval to return has been given by an appropriate health authority	Not excluded unless considered necessary by public health authorities
Varicella-Zoster (chickenpox and shingles)	Exclude until all blisters have dried (usually 5 days)	Any child with an immune deficiency (for example, leukaemia) or receiving chemotherapy should be excluded for their own protection. Otherwise, not excluded
Viral gastroenteritis (viral diarrhoea)	Exclude until no diarrhoea for 24 hours	Not excluded
Warts (common, flat and plantar)	Exclusion is NOT necessary	Not excluded
Whooping cough (pertussis)	Exclude from child care, school or workplace and similar settings until 5 days after starting antibiotic treatment, or for 21 days from the onset of coughing	Household and child care contacts (in the same child care group) of the case who have received < 3 doses of a pertussis containing vaccine should be excluded from child care for 14 days from the last exposure to the infectious cases, unless they have already completed 5 days of recommended antibiotic treatment, in which case they may return
Worms	Exclude if diarrhoea present	Not excluded
Yersinia infection	Exclude until no diarrhoea for 24 hours	Not excluded