UK Health Security Agency

Guidance

Public health exclusion periods in children and young people's settings

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This publication is available at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-protection-in-schools-and-other-childcare-facilities/public-health-exclusion-periods-in-children-and-young-peoples-settings

A guide for staff in early years and education settings which include nurseries, childminders, preschools and schools.

Find out:

- if an individual or group needs to stay away from the setting and for how long (public health exclusion period)
- when you need to contact your local health protection team (https://www.gov.uk/health-protection-team)

Where there's no public health exclusion period, infected people can come to the setting and interact with others as usual.

If a child shows signs of harm or risk

If a child shows signs of harm or risk, especially if they are under 13, you should follow local rules and make a safeguarding referral. This is particularly relevant if they present with chlamydia, genital herpes, gonorrhoea, hepatitis B, hepatitis C or HIV.

The NHS website has a useful resource (https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/) to share with parents.

Infection	Public health exclusion period	When to contact your local health protection team
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
Chlamydia	No exclusion required	You do not need to contact your health protection team
Cold sores	No exclusion required	You do not need to contact your health protection team
Conjunctivitis (pink eye)	No exclusion required	You do not need to contact your health protection team
COVID-19	Infected people should stay away from the setting if they have more than mild	Only contact your local health protection team if there's an unusually high number of absences, or if someone is

Infection	Public health exclusion period	When to contact your local health protection team
	symptoms, for example, a high temperature	admitted to hospital because of COVID-19
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 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
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
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
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
Food poisoning	Infected people should stay away until 2 days after diarrhoea	Only contact your local health protection team if there are 2 or more people at your

Infection	Public health exclusion period	When to contact your local health protection team
	and vomiting has stopped	setting with similar symptoms who are linked
Genital herpes	No exclusion required	You do not need to contact your health protection team
Genital warts and human papillomavirus (HPV)	No exclusion required	You do not need to contact your health protection team
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
Glandular fever	No exclusion required	You do not need to contact your health protection team
Gonorrhoea	No exclusion required	You do not need to contact your health protection team
Group A strep (GAS) and invasive group A strep (iGAS)	Infected people should stay away from the setting until 24 hours after they started antibiotics treatment	Only contact your local health protection team if anyone has invasive group A strep
Hand, foot and mouth disease	No exclusion required	You do not need to contact your health protection team
Head lice (nits)	No exclusion required	You do not need to contact your 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	No exclusion required	You do not need to contact your health protection team

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Hepatitis C	No exclusion required	You do not need to contact your health protection team
HIV	No exclusion required	You do not need to contact your health protection team
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 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
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 health protection team
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
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
Norovirus	Infected people should stay away from the setting until 2 days after their diarrhoea	Only contact your local health protection team if you need further specialist advice

Infection	Public health exclusion period	When to contact your local health protection team
	and vomiting has stopped	
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
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
Ringworm	Infected people should stay away from the setting until they have started treatment	You do not need to contact your health protection team
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 health protection team
Rubella	Infected people should stay away from the setting until 5 days after their rash started	You do not need to contact your health protection team

Infection	Public health exclusion period	When to contact your local health protection team
Scabies	Infected people who are aged 5 and under, or cannot follow the guidance, should stay away from setting until 24 hours after their first treatment	Only contact your local health protection team if there are 2 or 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 health protection team
Slapped cheek	No exclusion required	You do not need to contact your health protection team
Threadworms	No exclusion required	You do not need to contact your health protection team
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
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
Whooping cough (pertussis)	Infected people should stay away from the setting until they	Only contact your local health protection team if there are

Infection	Public health exclusion period	When to contact your local health protection team
	have taken antibiotics for 2 days, or for 21 days from onset of symptoms if no antibiotics	more than 2 cases at your setting who are linked

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