

School Exclusion Criteria

Exclusion for five days (1,2):

- from rash onset - **chickenpox***, **measles**
- from starting antibiotics - **whooping cough (pertussis)**
- from onset of swollen glands - **mumps**

German measles (rubella) (3) - six days from onset of rash

Scarlet fever (3) - child can return 24 hours after commencing appropriate antibiotic treatment

Exclusion until condition has settled for 24 hours (1,2)

- **giardiasis; salmonella; shigella**

Exclusion until lesions crusted or healed

- **impetigo** - until lesions are crusted and healed, or 48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment (3)
- **Shingles (3)** - exclude only if rash is weeping and cannot be covered

Exclusion from school until treated

- **scabies**

With respect to **gastroenteritis** NICE have stated that (4):

- children should not attend any school or other childcare facility while they have diarrhoea or vomiting caused by gastroenteritis
- children should not go back to their school or other childcare facility until at least 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting
- children should not swim in swimming pools for 2 weeks after the last episode of diarrhoea.

Conditions where there is no recommended period to be kept away from school (once the child is well):

- influenza; cold sores (HSV); molluscum contagiosum; ringworm (tinea); athlete's foot; roseola; **slapped cheek disease (parvovirus)**; warts and verrucae; **conjunctivitis; glandular fever; head lice**; non-meningococcal meningitis; thread worm; **tonsillitis**
- **hand, foot and mouth disease** - infected children should be kept away from school while they are unwell. The child should not be kept away from school till the last blister disappears, providing the child is well (5).

Reference:

- 1) Pulse (17/7/99), 15.
- 2) Department of Health (2005). Guidance on infection control in schools and nurseries
- 3) Health Protection Agency (April 2010). Guidance on infection control in schools and other childcare settings
- 4) NICE (April 2009). Diarrhoea and vomiting in children.
- 5) Health Protection Agency. Essex Health Protection Unit 2009. Factsheet on hand, foot and mouth disease
- 6) Institute for Child Health, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust.