



Communicable Disease Chart:

Concise descriptions and recommendations for exclusion of cases from school

Code 504.2-E1

Source: Iowa Department of Public Health

DISEASE <i>*Immunization is available</i>	Usual Interval Between Exposure and First Symptoms of Disease	Main Symptoms	Minimum Exclusion from School
Chickenpox*	10-21 Days (Average 14-16 days)	Mild symptoms and fever. Pocks are blisterly. Develop scabs with most on covered parts of body.	Seven days from onset of rash until all blisters have crusted.
Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)	24-72 Hours	Tearing, redness, puffy lids, and discharge.	Until treatment begins or physician approves return.
Erythema Infectiosum (5 th Disease)	4-20 Days	Usual age is 5-14 years. Unusual in adults. Brief prodrom or low grade fever followed by Erythema (slapped appearance on cheeks), lace-like rash on extremities lasting a few days to three weeks. Rash seems to recur.	After diagnosis, no exclusion from school.
German Measles* (Rubella)	14-21 Days	Usually mild. Enlarged glands in neck and behind ears. Brief red rash.	Seven days from onset of rash. Keep away from pregnant women.
Haemophilus Meningitis*	2-4 Days	Fever, vomiting, lethargy, with stiff neck/back.	Until physician approves return.
Hepatitis A*	Varies: 15-50 Days (Average is 28-30 days)	Abdominal pain, nausea, fever. Skin and eyes may/may not turn yellow.	Fourteen days from onset of clinical disease and at least seven days from onset of jaundice.
Impetigo	4-10 Days	Inflamed sores with pus.	Twenty-four hours after antibiotic therapy has started or until physician approves return. Avoid contact with drainage from lesions. Cover lesions when attending school.
Measles*	10 Days to Fever 14 Days to Rash	Begins with fever, conjunctivitis, runny nose, cough, and then blotchy red rash.	Four days from onset of rash.
Meningococcal Meningitis	2-10 Days (Is commonly 3-4 days)	Headache, nausea, stiff neck, and fever.	Until physician approves return.
Mumps*	12-25 Days (Average 16-18 days)	Fever, swelling, and tenderness of glands at angle of jaw.	Five days after onset or until symptoms have resolved.
Pediculosis (Head/Body Lice)	7 Days for Eggs to Hatch	Lice and nits (eggs) in hair.	No need to send home upon diagnosis. Return to school after initial treatment. No-nit policy is recommended.
Ringworm	4-10 Days	Scaly red patch. Usually ring-shaped.	No exclusion from school. Exclude from gymnasiums, pools, and contact sports.
Scabies	2-6 Weeks for Initial Exposure 1-4 Days after Re-Exposure	Tiny burrows in skin caused by mites.	Until 24 hours after treatment.
Scarlet Fever Scarlatina Strep Throat	1-3 Days	Sudden onset, vomiting, and fever. Later a fine rash (not on face). Rash usually only with first infections.	Twenty-four hours after antibiotics started and no fever.
Whooping Cough* (Pertussis)	6-20 Days (Average 9-10 days)	Head cold, slight fever, cough, and characteristic whoop after 2 weeks.	Five days after start of antibiotic treatment.

Readmission to School: It is advisable that school authorities require written permission from the health officer, school physician, or attending physician before any student is readmitted to class following any disease which requires exclusion, not mere absence, from school.