



Dear Parents/Carers

Please see below a list of infectious diseases and the exclusion periods and other measures which should be followed if a child contracts or comes into contact with a person who has one of the listed diseases.

The ACT Public Health Regulations 2000, assigns to parents a responsibility to exclude their child from school and to notify the school if there are reasonable grounds for believing that their child has an infectious disease, or been in contact with a person who has one of the diseases listed.

Under the Regulations schools must also notify the Chief Health Officer if a child enrolled at the school has a vaccine preventable disease. This allows the Chief Health Officer to take any public health action necessary to prevent the further spread of the disease.

In the event of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease at the school, or in the community, the Chief Health Officer may issue a health direction to the school to take any specified action to reduce the public health risk caused by the outbreak.

If you have any questions in relation to these requirements, please ring the Communicable Disease Control Section, Health Directorate on (02) 6205 2155.

Regards  
Jason Holmes  
Principal  
Harrison School

**Infectious Conditions – periods of exclusion from school**

Personal hygiene measures such as hand washing, covering the mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, covering weeping sores, not sharing food or drinks and not attending school when ill or suffering from diarrhoea are important means of limiting the transmission of a number of common infectious conditions.

The ACT Public Health Regulations 2000 require children with the following conditions, and children who have been in contact with the following conditions, to be excluded from school, preschool for the periods specified.

| <b>Condition</b>                              | <b>Exclusion period of person with condition</b>   | <b>Exclusion of persons in contact with condition</b>   |
|---|--|---|
| Amoebiasis (entamoeba histolytica)            | Exclude until diarrhoea ceases   | Not excluded  |
| *Campylobacteriosis                           | Exclude until diarrhoea ceases   | Not excluded  |
| Chicken pox (varicella and herpes zoster)     | Exclude until the last blister has scabbed over.<br>The child should not continue to be excluded by reason only of some remaining scabs.   | Not excluded<br>Any child with an immune deficiency (eg with leukaemia, or as a result of receiving chemotherapy) should be excluded for their own protection and seek urgent medical advice and varicella-zoster immunoglobulin (ZIG), if necessary. |
| Conjunctivitis (acute infectious)             | Exclude until discharge from eyes ceases.  | Not excluded  |
| *Cryptosporidiosis                            | Exclude until diarrhoea ceases   | Not excluded  |
| Diarrhoea                                     | Exclude until diarrhoea ceases   | Not excluded  |
| *#Diphtheria                                  | Exclude until—<br>at least 2 negative throat swabs have been taken (the first not less than 24 hours after cessation of antibiotic treatment and the second not less than 48 hours later), and<br>a certificate is provided by a medical practitioner recommending that the exclusion should cease | Exclude family and household contacts until approval to return has been given by the Chief Health Officer.  |
| Giardiasis                                    | Exclude until diarrhoea ceases   | Not excluded  |
| *# <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b (Hib) | Exclude until a certificate is provided by a medical practitioner recommending that the exclusion should cease.  | Not excluded  |
| Hand, Foot and Mouth disease                  | Exclude if—<br>child is unwell, or<br>child is drooling, and not all blisters have dried or an exposed weeping blister is not covered with a dressing.   | Not excluded  |
| *Hepatitis A                                  | Exclude for at least 7 days after the onset of jaundice and a certificate is provided by a medical practitioner recommending that the exclusion should cease.  | Not excluded  |

| Condition                                       | Exclusion period of person with condition  | Exclusion of persons in contact with condition   |
|---|--|--|
| Herpes (cold sores)                             | Exclude young children unable to comply with good hygiene practices while the lesion is weeping. Lesion to be covered by a dressing in all cases, if possible. | Not excluded   |
| Impetigo (school sores)                         | Exclude until appropriate treatment has commenced and sores on exposed surfaces are covered with a watertight  | Not excluded   |
| Influenza and influenza-like illnesses          | Exclude until well   | Not excluded   |
| *Leprosy  | Exclude until approval to return has been given by the Chief Health Officer.   | Not excluded   |
| *#Measles                                       | Exclude for at least 4 days after the rash appears.  | <p>Immunised contacts not excluded. Exclude non-immunised contacts until 14 days after the first day of appearance of the rash in the index case.</p> <p>(b) Non-immunised contacts immunised with measles vaccine within 72 hours after their first contact with the index case are not excluded after being immunised.</p> <p>(d) Non-immunised contacts who are given normal human immunoglobulin (NHIG) within 7 days after their first contact with the index case are not excluded after being given NHIG.</p> |
| Meningitis (bacterial)                          | Exclude until well   | Not excluded   |
| *Meningococcal infection                        | Exclude until adequate carrier eradication therapy has commenced.  | <p>Not excluded if receiving rifampicin or other antibiotic treatment recommended by the Chief Health Officer.</p> <p>Otherwise, excluded until 10 days after last contact with the index case.</p>  |
| *#Mumps   | Exclude for 9 days after onset of symptoms, or until parotid swelling goes down (whichever is sooner).   | Not excluded   |
| *#Poliomyelitis                                 | Exclude for at least 14 days after onset of symptoms and until a certificate is provided by a medical practitioner recommending that the exclusion should      | Not excluded   |
| Ringworm, scabies, pediculosis (lice), trachoma | Exclude until effective treatment has commenced.   | Not excluded   |
| Rotavirus                                       | Exclude until diarrhoea ceases   | Not excluded   |

| <b>Condition</b>   | <b>Exclusion period of person with condition</b>  | <b>Exclusion of persons in contact with condition</b>   |
|--|---|---|
| *#Rubella (German measles)   | Exclude for 4 days after the appearance of the rash.  | Not excluded<br>Female staff of child-bearing age should ensure that their immune status against rubella is adequate.   |
| *Salmonellosis   | Exclude until diarrhoea ceases  | Not excluded  |
| *Shigellosis   | Exclude until diarrhoea ceases  | Not excluded  |
| Streptococcal infection (including scarlet fever)  | Exclude until the person has recovered or has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours.  | Not excluded  |
| *Tuberculosis  | Exclude until approval to return has been given by the Chief Health Officer.  | Not excluded  |
| *Typhoid and paratyphoid fever   | Exclude until a certificate is provided by a medical practitioner recommending that the exclusion should cease.                                 | (a) Not excluded unless the Chief Health Officer notifies the person in charge of the school.<br>(a) If the Chief Health Officer gives notice, exclusion is subject to the conditions in the notice.  |
| *#Whooping cough (pertussis)   | Exclude for 21 days from start of cough, or for at least 5 days after starting a course of antibiotics recommended by the Chief Health Officer. | Exclude non-immunised household, home based child care and close child care contacts under 7 years old for 14 days after the last exposure to infection, or until 5 days after starting a course of antibiotics recommended by the Chief Health Officer (whichever is sooner) |
| Worms (intestinal)   | Exclude until diarrhoea ceases  | Not excluded  |
| <p>A parent/carer of a child with a listed exclusion condition or a child who has been in contact with a listed exclusion condition must notify the school principal or principal carer as soon as possible.</p> <p>*These conditions must be notified by medical practitioners to the Chief Health Officer<br/>#These conditions must be notified by the school principal or principal carer to the Chief Health Officer.</p> |   |   |