







OAKLAND COUNTY HEALTH DIVISION
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REFERENCE CHART
 2025-2026

The following chart contains information and public health recommendations for various communicable diseases in schools and other group activity settings. Diagnosis should always be made by a physician. Exclusion period given is a minimum amount of time and applies to uncomplicated cases of the diseases listed.


Note: Please notify the Health Division immediately at 248-858-1286 or 1-888-350-0900 ext. 81286, if you are aware of an unusual occurrence of a disease or an unusual number of cases of one type of disease on a given day.

DISEASE	INCUBATION PERIOD	PERIOD OF COMMUNICABILITY	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN AND/OR EXCLUSION PERIOD
CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS	Range 1-10 days Commonly 2-5 days	Throughout illness (usually 1-2 weeks, but up to 7 weeks without treatment)	Exclude until diarrhea has ceased for at least 2 days; additional restrictions may apply.
 CHICKENPOX	Range 10-21 days Commonly 14-16 days	As long as 5 days, but usually 1-2 days before onset of rash and until all lesions have crusted.	Exclude until all lesions have dried or crusted and no new lesions for 24hr, usually 5-6 days after the eruption of the first crop of lesions (with or without antiviral therapy). For non-crusting lesions: until lesions are fading and no new lesions appear.
CONJUNCTIVITIS (Pink Eye)*	Variable depending on infecting agent, sometimes within 24 hours	During course of active infection.	Exclude until under medical care and drainage from eyes has cleared.
COVID-19	Range 2-14 days, commonly 3-4 days	Peak transmissibility appears to occur early during the infectious period (prior to symptom onset until a few days after), but infected persons can shed infectious virus up to 10 days following infection. *Immunocompromised individuals may be contagious for longer	Exclude until 24 hours fever-free and symptoms improving. See CDC's Respiratory Virus Guidance: https://www.cdc.gov/ncird/whats-new/updated-respiratory-virus-guidance.html
E. COLI (Shiga toxin-producing)	Variable, usually 2-10 days	For duration of diarrhea until stool culture is negative.	Medical clearance required; Exclude until diarrhea has ceased for at least 2 days.
FIFTH DISEASE (Erythema infectiosum) (Parvovirus B19)	Variable about 4-20 days	Prior to onset of rash.	Exclude while fever is present.
GIARDIASIS	Range 3-25+ days Commonly 7-10 days	During active infection	Exclude until diarrhea has ceased for at least 2 days; may be relapsing infection; additional restrictions may apply.
HAND, FOOT & MOUTH DISEASE*	Usually 3-5 days	2-3 days prior to symptoms and while sores are present, about 7-10 days. Can be found in feces for several weeks during acute stage.	Exclude if blister secretions cannot be contained; exclude until fever free for at least 24 hours without medication; exclude until no uncontrolled drooling with mouth sores.
HEPATITIS A	Range 15-50 days Average 25-30 days	2 weeks before onset of symptoms to 1 to 2 week after onset.	Exclude until at least 7 days after jaundice onset and medically cleared; exclude from food handling for 14 days after onset.
 HEPATITIS B	Range 45 days-6 months; average is 60-90 days (2-3 months)	Several weeks before onset of symptoms until blood no longer positive for evidence of virus.	No exclusion except for open sores that cannot be contained or if child is biting people.

HEPATITIS C	Range 2 weeks to 6 months; commonly 6-9 weeks	1 or more weeks before onset through acute clinical course.	Only if uncontaminated open sores present or if child is biting people.
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DISEASE	INCUBATION PERIOD	PERIOD OF COMMUNICABILITY	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN AND/OR EXCLUSION PERIOD
HERPES SIMPLEX I, II (cold sores / fever blisters) (genital herpes)	Range 2-14 days.	Usually as long as lesions are present. May be intermittent shedding while asymptomatic. Has been found in saliva for as long as 7 weeks after mouth lesions.	No exclusion recommended unless child cannot control drooling.
IMPETIGO*	Variable, usually 4- 10 days, but can be as short as 1-3 days	While sores are draining. After 24-48 hours of antibiotic treatment the person is no longer contagious	Exclude until 24 hours after treatment has started, lesions healing and no new lesions appear.
INFLUENZA/INF. LIKE ILLNESS	Usually 1-4 days	1 day prior to onset of symptoms to 1 week or more after onset	Exclude until 24hrs with no fever (without fever-reducing medication) and cough has subsided. See CDC's Respiratory Virus Guidance: https://www.cdc.gov/ncird/whats-new/updated-respiratory-virus-guidance.html
MEASLES (Rubeola/Hard Measles) 	Range 7-21 days; 10-12 days average	Usually 4 days before to 4 days after onset of rash.	Exclude until 4 days after onset of rash.
MENINGITIS (Aseptic/Viral)	Depends on type of infectious agent	Depends on type of infectious agent.	Medical clearance required; exclude until 24hrs after antimicrobial treatment.
MENINGITIS (Meningococcal, Haemophilus influenzae) 	Variable, depends on type of bacteria. Range 2-10 days Commonly 2-4 days	Generally considered no longer contagious after 24hrs of antibiotic treatment	Exclude until under treatment and physician approves return.
MONONUCLEOSIS*	30-50 days	Prolonged communicability may persist up to a year or more.	Exclude until able to tolerate activity; Exclude from contact sports until recovered.
MUMPS 	Ranges 12-25 days commonly 16-18 days	7 days prior to and 8 days after parotitis onset.	Exclude until 5 days after onset of salivary gland swelling.
MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus)	Variable	As long as lesions are draining; found in the environment; good hand hygiene is the best way to avoid infection.	No exclusion if covered and drainage contained; No swim exclusion if covered by waterproof bandage.
NOROVIRUS (viral gastroenteritis)	Range 12-72 hours Commonly 24-48 hours	Usually from onset until 2-3 days after recovery; typically, virus is no longer shed after 10 days.	Exclude until illness has ceased for at least 2 days; exclude from food handling for 3 days after recovery.
PEDICULOSIS (Head Lice)*	1-2 weeks Eggs hatch in 7-10 days	Until lice and viable eggs are destroyed, which generally requires 1-2 shampoo treatments and nit combing.	Exclude at end of day and until 1st treatment and exam for live lice/eggs completed. A 2nd treatment may be necessary 7-10 days after 1st treatment.
PERTUSSIS (Whooping Cough) 	Range 5-21 days Average 7-10 days	After onset of cold-like symptoms (first 2 weeks) until 5 days after start of treatment with the appropriate antibiotic.	Exclude until 21 days after onset of disease if untreated, or until 5 days after antibiotic treatment started.
PINWORMS (Enterobiasis)	Range 1-2 months after ingestion of eggs	As long as female worm survives in the intestine.	Exclude until first treatment completed.

PNEUMOCOCCAL DISEASE (<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>)	Varies; as short as 1- 3 days	Until 24hrs after antimicrobial therapy.	Exclude until 24hrs after antimicrobial therapy
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DISEASE	INCUBATION PERIOD	PERIOD OF COMMUNICABILITY	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN AND/OR EXCLUSION PERIOD
RASH, UNDIAGNOSED, WITH OR WITHOUT FEVER	Variable depending on agent.	Variable depending on agent.	Exclude until rash has disappeared and fever is gone or until a physician diagnosis is obtained.
Acute Respiratory Illness (Respiratory Syncytial Virus/RSV, etc.)	Variable depending on agent (1-10 days)	Variable depending on agent	Exclude until 24hrs with no fever (without fever-reducing medication). See CDC's Respiratory Virus Guidance: https://www.cdc.gov/ncird/whats-new/updated-respiratory-virus-guidance.html
RINGWORM*	Usually 4-14 days	As long as lesions are present and fungal spores exist on materials.	Treatment may be delayed until end of the day; if treatment started before next day's return, no exclusion necessary; exclude from contact sports, swimming until start of treatment
ROTAVIRUS	Usually 1-3 days	During acute illness. Usually up to 8 days after onset but can be as long as 3 weeks.	Exclude children with diarrhea who use diapers or have toilet accidents. Toilet trained children with noaccidents do not need to be excluded.
RUBELLA  (German)	Range of 14-21 days; commonly 16-18 days.	From 1 week before to 1 week after onset of rash.	Exclude until 7 days after onset of rash.
SALMONELLOSIS	Range 6hrs to 6 days Commonly 12-36 hours.	During course of infection and until organism is no longer in feces (Usually several days to several weeks)	Exclude until diarrhea has ceased for at least 2 days. Specific activity exclusion will be based on OCHD recommendations.
SCABIES*	First exposure 2-6 weeks; subsequent exp. 1-4 days.	Until mites are destroyed by appropriate treatment; prescription skin and oral medications are generally effective after one treatment	Exclude until 24 hours of treatment completed.
SCARLET FEVER AND STREP THROAT	Range 1-7 days Commonly 2-5 days	Communicability usually ends within 24 hours if treated, 10-21 days if untreated.	Exclude until under treatment for 24 hours.
SHIGELLA	Range of 12-96 hours; commonly 1-3 days,	During course of infection and until organism is no longer in feces, about 4 weeks after onset. Treatment can shorten duration.	Exclude until diarrhea has ceased for at least 2 days; Medical clearance required.
SHINGLES (Herpes Zoster)	No incubation period - reactivation of dormant virus.	As long as 1 week after lesions appear.	No exclusion if lesions are kept covered and contained. Otherwise, exclude until all lesions have crusted.
TUBERCULOSIS (TB)	2-10 weeks	While actively infectious	Exclude until medically cleared.
Typhoid Fever (<i>Salmonella typhi</i>)	Range 3-60 days Commonly 8-14 days	From first week of illness through convalescence	Exclude until symptom free; Medical clearance required; Contact OCHD about additional restrictions.
Vomiting Illness (unspecified)	Varies	Varies	Exclude until 24 hours after last episode.



Vaccine preventable disease, required school entry vaccine.

***PLEASE NOTE: HAND, FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE, CONJUNCTIVITIS (PINK EYE), IMPETIGO, MONO, PEDICULOSIS (HEAD LICE), RING WORM AND SCABIES NO LONGER NEED TO BE REPORTED UNLESS THERE ARE TWO (2) OR MORE CASES IN A WEEK.**