

Time Out

for contagious conditions

Keeping children and staff healthy!



This poster provides advice to early childhood education and care services, schools and health professionals on common contagious conditions that may require exclusion.

Information based on National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) recommendations, public health guidelines and the *Public Health Regulation 2018* (Qld).

Condition	Person with the condition	Those in contact with the contagious person
Chickenpox (varicella)	EXCLUDE until all blisters have dried and crusted. Pregnant women should consult with their doctor.	NOT EXCLUDED Non-immune pregnant women and people with immune deficiencies or receiving chemotherapy should seek urgent medical assessment. <i>Contact your Public Health Unit for specialist advice.</i>
Cold sores	EXCLUDE young children unable to comply with good hygiene practices until the sores are dry. NOT EXCLUDED older children and adults if able to maintain hygiene practices. Sores should be covered with a dressing where possible.	NOT EXCLUDED
Conjunctivitis	EXCLUDE until discharge from eyes has stopped, unless a doctor has diagnosed non-infectious conjunctivitis.	NOT EXCLUDED
Cytomegalovirus (CMV)	NOT EXCLUDED Pregnant women should consult with their doctor.	NOT EXCLUDED Pregnant women should consult with their doctor.
Diarrhoea and/or vomiting including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>campylobacter</i> • <i>cryptosporidium</i> • <i>giardia</i> • rotavirus • salmonella • gastroenteritis See specific advice for these conditions below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • norovirus • <i>shigella</i> • toxin producing forms of E.coli (STEC) 	EXCLUDE until the person has not had any diarrhoea or vomiting for at least 24 hours. EXCLUDE anyone who prepares or serves food until they have not had any diarrhoea or vomiting for 48 hours. NOTE: If there are 2 or more people with diarrhoea and/or vomiting in the same location, (which may indicate a potential outbreak) OR a single case in a food handler, notify your public health unit.	NOT EXCLUDED
Fungal infections of the skin and nails (ringworm/tinea)	EXCLUDE until the day after antifungal treatment has commenced. (No exclusion for thrush).	NOT EXCLUDED
Glandular fever (mononucleosis, Epstein-Barr virus)	NOT EXCLUDED	NOT EXCLUDED
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b (Hib)	EXCLUDE until completion of antibiotics and the treating doctor confirms the person is not infectious. <i>Contact your Public Health Unit for specialist advice.</i>	NOT EXCLUDED <i>Contact your Public Health Unit for specialist advice.</i>
Hand, foot and mouth disease	EXCLUDE until all blisters have dried.	NOT EXCLUDED
Head lice	NOT EXCLUDED if effective treatment is commenced before next attendance day (i.e. the child does not need to be sent home immediately if head lice are detected).	NOT EXCLUDED
Hepatitis A	EXCLUDE <i>Contact your Public Health Unit for specialist advice.</i>	EXCLUSION MAY APPLY <i>Contact your Public Health Unit for specialist advice.</i>
Hepatitis B and C	NOT EXCLUDED cover open wounds with waterproof dressing.	NOT EXCLUDED
Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV/AIDS)	NOT EXCLUDED cover open wounds with waterproof dressing.	NOT EXCLUDED
Influenza and influenza-like illness eg. RSV, influenza, COVID-19, rhinovirus, parainfluenza, human metapneumovirus	EXCLUDE until symptoms have resolved, normally 5-7 days.	NOT EXCLUDED

Condition	Person with the condition	Those in contact with the contagious person
Measles	EXCLUDE until the treating doctor confirms the person is not infectious but not earlier than 4 days after the onset of rash. <i>Contact your Public Health Unit for specialist advice.</i>	EXCLUSION MAY APPLY <i>Contact your Public Health Unit for specialist advice.</i> NOT EXCLUDED vaccinated or immune contacts. EXCLUDE contacts without evidence of immunity or vaccination, and immunocompromised children and staff regardless of vaccination status.
Meningitis (viral)	EXCLUDE until well.	NOT EXCLUDED
Meningococcal	EXCLUDE until completion of at least 24 hours of an appropriate antibiotic.	NOT EXCLUDED <i>Contact your Public Health Unit for specialist advice.</i>
Molluscum contagiosum	NOT EXCLUDED	NOT EXCLUDED
Mumps	EXCLUDE for 5 days after onset of swelling. Pregnant women should consult with their doctor.	NOT EXCLUDED Pregnant women should consult with their doctor.
Norovirus	EXCLUDE until there has not been any diarrhoea or vomiting for at least 48 hours.	NOT EXCLUDED
Pneumococcal	EXCLUDE until the person has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and feels well.	NOT EXCLUDED
Roseola (sixth disease)	NOT EXCLUDED	NOT EXCLUDED
Rubella (German measles)	EXCLUDE for 7 days after the onset of rash or until fully recovered, whichever is longer. Pregnant women should consult their doctor. <i>Contact your Public Health Unit for specialist advice.</i>	NOT EXCLUDED Pregnant women should consult with their doctor.
Scabies	EXCLUDE until the day after treatment has commenced.	NOT EXCLUDED
School sores (impetigo, staphylococcus)	EXCLUDE until the day after starting treatment. Cover any sores on exposed skin with a waterproof dressing until the sores are dry.	NOT EXCLUDED
Shiga toxin-producing E.coli (STEC)	EXCLUDE until there has been no diarrhoea for 48 hours. Negative samples may be required. <i>Contact your Public Health Unit for specialist advice.</i>	EXCLUSION MAY APPLY <i>Contact your Public Health Unit for specialist advice.</i>
Shigellosis (shigella infection)	EXCLUDE until there has been no diarrhoea or vomiting for 48 hours Negative samples may be required. <i>Contact your Public Health Unit for specialist advice.</i>	EXCLUSION MAY APPLY <i>Contact your Public Health Unit for specialist advice.</i>
Shingles (herpes zoster)	EXCLUDE all children until blisters have dried and crusted. EXCLUDE adults if blisters are unable to be covered. NOT EXCLUDED in adults if all blisters can be covered until they have dried.	NOT EXCLUDED Non-immune pregnant women and people with immune deficiencies or receiving chemotherapy should seek urgent medical assessment. <i>Contact your Public Health Unit for specialist advice.</i>
Slapped cheek syndrome (fifth disease, parvovirus B19, erythema infectiosum)	NOT EXCLUDED Pregnant women should consult with their doctor.	NOT EXCLUDED Pregnant women should consult with their doctor.
Streptococcal sore throat (including scarlet fever)	EXCLUDE until the person has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and feels well.	NOT EXCLUDED
Tuberculosis	EXCLUDE until written medical clearance is received from the relevant Tuberculosis Control Unit.	NOT EXCLUDED
Typhoid and paratyphoid	EXCLUDE until there have been no symptoms for 48 hours. Stool sample clearance may be required. <i>Contact your Public Health Unit for specialist advice.</i>	EXCLUSION MAY APPLY <i>Contact your Public Health Unit for specialist advice.</i>
Whooping cough (pertussis)	EXCLUDE until 5 days after starting appropriate antibiotics or for at least 21 days from the onset of cough if the person does not receive antibiotics.	EXCLUSION MAY APPLY <i>Contact your Public Health Unit for specialist advice.</i>
Worms (intestinal)	NOT EXCLUDED	NOT EXCLUDED

This is an assistive tool ONLY. It is not intended to replace clinical assessment, management or judgement.

People with the conditions listed should be well prior to returning to the service, in addition to the recommendations outlined above

Further information on recommendations:

- National Health and Medical Research Council
Staying Healthy: Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services - 6th Edition
<https://www.nhmc.gov.au/about-us/publications/staying-healthy-guidelines>
- Communicable Diseases Network Australia (CDNA) guidelines
<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/cdna-series-of-national-guidelines-songs>
- Queensland Department of Health Communicable Disease Control Guidance
<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/disease-control>
- *Public Health Regulation 2018 (Qld)*
<https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/inforce/current/sl-2018-0117>

If you have any medical concerns, contact your healthcare provider or call 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84)

For further advice on the information within this poster, contact your nearest Public Health Unit
<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/contact-us/contact/public-health-units>



Use this QR Code to access a digital copy of this poster or visit

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/schools/prevention>



Queensland Government