

GUIDANCE ON INFECTION CONTROL IN SCHOOLS

RASHES AND SKIN INFECTIONS	PERIOD TO BE KEPT AWAY FROM SCHOOL	COMMENTS
Chicken pox	Until all blisters have crusted over	Children with chicken pox are to be kept away from the academy to protect others
German Measles	5 days from onset of rash	
Hand, foot and mouth	None	Remind children of good hygiene practice
Strep A	24 hours after starting antibiotics	
Impetigo	48 hours after beginning antibiotic Treatment or until all lesions are crusted over	If lesions are weeping keep the child at home. Implement good hygiene practices.
Measles *	4 days from the onset of rash	
Ringworm	As soon as treatment administered	Medication is required & keep feet covered
Scabies*	Until treatment has been completed	All household and other very close contacts should be treated
Scarlet fever *	24 hours after beginning antibiotic treatment	Remind children of good hygiene practice
Slapped cheek	None	Individuals are no longer infectious once rash appears

DIARRHOEA AND VOMITING	PERIOD TO BE KEPT AWAY FROM SCHOOL	COMMENTS
Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting	48 hours from the last episode	Diarrhoea is defined as 3 or more liquid or semi-liquid stools within a 24-hour period in adults and older children or any change in bowel pattern in young children. Remind children of good hygiene practice.

RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS (inc. COVID-19)	PERIOD TO BE KEPT AWAY FROM SCHOOL	COMMENTS
Includes: Common cold, COVID-19, Flu and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	Until child no longer has a high temperature and are well enough to attend the setting. If COVID-19, child must isolate for 3 days after the day they took their test.	Mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, who are otherwise well, should attend as normal. Remind children of good hygiene practice.
Whooping Cough	48 hours after antibiotic treatment or 21 days from onset of symptoms (if no antibiotics are taken)	Children can still return after appropriate time, even if they are still coughing

OTHER INFECTIONS	PERIOD TO BE KEPT AWAY FROM SCHOOL	COMMENTS
Conjunctivitis	None	Remind children of good hygiene practice
Glandular fever	None	Remind children of good hygiene practice
Head lice	None	Treatment required. Parents to give regular head checks and provide good hair care.
Threadworms	None	Remind children of good hygiene
Tonsillitis	None	Most cases are viruses

Infections marked with a * are notifiable diseases. It is a statutory requirement that school report a notifiable disease to the local authority. Information obtained from March 2025 update of [Chapter 9: managing specific](#)