

## Herrick Presbyterian Covenant School

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES POLICY

Children who have caught certain infectious diseases need to stay away from school until they have completely recovered. This is not only because they need time and lots of rest in order to fully recuperate from their illness but because infectious diseases are spread by contact with others who are affected. There are regulations about when children can go back to school after contracting these diseases. This is to prevent epidemics of these illnesses happening.

The National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC) guidelines for exclusion from school are listed below. Of course, even if a child does not have one of the conditions on the list, he or she should still always stay away from school if he or she is unwell.

If a child's condition is not listed, or if there is uncertainty about how long the child should stay at home, a doctor should be consulted.

If children have immunity to these diseases then the NHMRC suggests they do not need to be kept out of school if an outbreak occurs.

<b>Condition</b>	<b>Does the child need to stay away if he or she has this condition?</b>	<b>Does the child need to stay away if they have been in contact with a person who has this condition?</b>
↓	↓	↓
Amoebiasis (Entamoeba histolytica infection)	Yes, until diarrhoea has stopped.	No
Campylobacter infection	Yes, until diarrhoea has stopped.	No
Chickenpox (varicella and herpes zoster)	Keep your child out of school until fully recovered, or until at least 5 days after the spots first appear AND until all the blisters have dried.	No, unless he or she has immune system problems, such as leukaemia, or is receiving chemotherapy.
Conjunctivitis (acute infectious)	Yes, until the discharge from the eyes has stopped.	No
Cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection	No	No
Diarrhoea (caused by infection from rotavirus, shigella, Giardia, salmonella, Campylobacter)	Yes, until diarrhoea has stopped.	No
Diphtheria	Keep your child away from school until your doctor signs a medical certificate of recovery. Your child must have at least 2 negative throat swabs after antibiotic treatment, to ensure they are fully recovered.	Yes. All family members and household contacts should stay away from the school until your doctor or another appropriate health authority clears them to return.

Glandular fever	No	No
Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)	Yes, until your doctor signs a medical certificate stating your child has recovered.	No
Hand, foot and mouth disease	Yes, until all blisters have dried.	No
Hepatitis A	Yes, until your doctor signs a medical certificate of recovery. Children should stay away until at least 7 days after jaundice or illness begins.	No
Hepatitis B	No	No
Hepatitis C	No	No
Herpes (?cold sores?)	If your young child is not able to follow hygiene practices while the cold sore is weeping, then he or she should stay away until it has healed. Cover cold sores with dressings if possible.	No
Hookworm	No	No
Human immunodeficiency virus infection (HIV)	No, unless your child has another infection as well as the HIV.	No
Impetigo (school sores)	Yes, until treatment has begun. Sores on exposed surfaces must be covered with a watertight dressing.	No
Influenza and influenza-like illnesses	No	No
Leprosy	Yes, until your doctor or other health authority gives approval to return.	No
Measles	Yes, until at least 4 days after the rash begins.	Not if immunised. Not if he or she gets immunised within 72 hours of contact with an infected person. If not immunised, he or she should stay away until 14 days after the appearance of a rash in the last person to be infected.
Meningitis (bacterial)	Yes, until well.	No
Meningococcal infection	Yes, until treatment has finished.	Yes, unless he or she is currently receiving the antibiotic rifampicin (brand names Rifadin, Rimycin).
Molluscum contagiosum (skin infection)	No	No
Mumps	Yes, for 9 days or until the swelling goes down, whichever is sooner.	No
Parvovirus (erythema infectiosum - ?fifth disease?, ?slapped face disease?)	No	No
Poliomyelitis (polio)	Yes, until at least 14 days from the onset. Your doctor must provide a certificate stating recovery.	No
Ringworm, scabies, pediculosis (lice), trachoma (a type of eye infection)	Can return to school the day after treatment has begun.	No

Rubella (German measles)	Yes, until fully recovered or can go back 4 days after rash started.	No (women of childbearing age working at the school should ensure they are immune to the disease or vaccinated against it).
Salmonella, shigella infection	Yes, until diarrhoea stops.	No
Streptococcal infection (including scarlet fever)	Yes, until your child has had antibiotics for at least 24 hours, and feels well.	No
Tuberculosis	Yes, until your doctor or other appropriate health authority issues a medical certificate.	No
Typhoid fever (including paratyphoid fever)	Yes, until approved to go back by your doctor or other appropriate health authority.	Not unless a public health authority says so.
Whooping cough (pertussis)	Yes, until 5 days after antibiotic treatment has begun.	Yes, and other children in the house who are under 7 years old must stay away, if they are not immunised, for 14 days after the last exposure to infection, or until they have taken 5 days of a 10-day course of antibiotics.
Worms (intestinal)	Yes, if diarrhoea is present.	No

*Sourced from the National Health and Medical Research Council June 2001*

The NHMRC recommends that children who are physically unwell should be excluded from attending school.

These guidelines may be reviewed from time to time. Always check with a doctor or healthcare worker if there is uncertainty whether a child should go back to school.

### **Immunisation**

At HPCS we ask to see children's immunisation records at enrolment time. This is because if an outbreak of an infectious disease occurs, the school will know who is not immunised and therefore must be sent home to prevent them catching and spreading the disease.

In any case, doctors recommend that all children be immunised against certain dangerous infectious diseases. These are:

- measles;
- mumps;
- rubella;
- poliomyelitis (polio);
- diphtheria;
- tetanus;
- pertussis (whooping cough);
- *haemophilus influenzae* type B (Hib); and
- hepatitis B.