

Common Communicable Diseases Found in Schools

If a student is diagnosed with one of these illnesses by a private health care provider, please notify the Certified School Nurse as soon as possible.

If the Certified School Nurse suspects that a student has one of these illnesses, she will notify the parents / guardians and recommend care by a private health care provider, if appropriate.

Disease	Type of Infection	Prevention	How long will my child be excluded from school?	Will the school notify the Department of Health?	Will other students and staff need to be excluded from school?
Lice	Parasite on the scalp	Avoid sharing personal objects, Proper use of lice shampoos, Mechanical removal of all nits (eggs), Proper laundering of clothes and bedding.	Until the hair is treated and cleaned (2 legal days of absence)	No	Yes, if siblings and classmates are found to have lice.
Scabies	Parasite on the skin	Proper hygiene and hand washing, Avoid sharing personal objects, Launder all contaminated clothes.	Until the child receives the appropriate treatment.	No	Yes, if siblings and classmates are found to have scabies
Ringworm	Fungus	Avoid sharing personal objects.	Until all lesions are treated and covered.	No	No
Impetigo	Bacteria	Proper hygiene and hand washing, .	Until the child is treated for 24 hours with the appropriate medication.	If there is more than one case in a class or group (i.e. team)	No

Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)	Bacteria, Virus, Allergy	Proper hygiene and hand washing, Proper sanitation of commonly touched objects.	Until judged non- infective by the certified school nurse or health care provider.	No	No
Respiratory streptococcal infections (Strep throat)	Bacteria	Proper hygiene and hand washing,	Until the child is treated with antimicrobials for 24 hours.	No	No
MRSA	Bacteria	Proper hygiene and hand washing, Proper sanitation of commonly touched objects. Avoid sharing personal objects. Cover all sores.	Until antibiotics are started and area is covered.	If there are more than 3 cases in a classroom or group (i.e. sports team)	No
Chickenpox	Virus	Immunization, Exclusion of infected students until rash is crusted over, <u>Proper hand washing.</u>	For five days from the appearance of the first crop of vesicles or when all the lesions have dried <u>and crusted.</u>	<u>Yes</u>	Possibly, according to the Department of Health <u>recommendations.</u>
Shingles		As above.	Only if the rash cannot be covered	Yes	As above.
Fifth disease	Virus	Proper hand-washing, Sanitation of contaminated items, Disposal of tissues containing nose and throat secretions	Once the rash appears the child is no longer contagious and will not be excluded from school.	No	Yes, any exposed person with sickle cell disease or a compromised immune system will be excluded until his or her health care provider states he or she is able to return.

					Pregnant women will be encouraged to contact their health care providers.
Measles	Virus	Immunization, Proper hygiene and hand washing.	For four days from onset of the rash or until recommended by the health care provider.	Yes	Possibly, according to the Department of Health recommendations.
Mumps	Virus	Immunization, Proper hygiene and hand washing.	For nine days from the onset of until subsidence of swelling.	Yes	Possibly, according to the Department of Health recommendations.
Pertussis (Whooping cough)	Bacteria	Immunization, Proper hygiene and hand washing.	For three weeks from the onset or 5 days from institution of appropriate medication.	Yes	Possibly, according to the Department of Health recommendations.
Diphtheria	Bacteria	Immunization, Proper hygiene and hand washing.	For two weeks from onset or until negative culture results	Yes	Possibly, according to the Department of Health recommendations.
Rubella (German measles)	Virus	Immunization, Proper hygiene and hand washing.	For six days from the onset of the rash.	Yes	Possibly, according to the Department of Health recommendations. Pregnant staff will be encouraged to consult their health care providers.
Meningitis	Bacteria	Immunization, Antibiotic prophylaxis for close contacts, Avoid sharing eating and drinking utensils, toothbrushes, etc.	Until the child is cleared to return to school by a health care provider	Yes	Possibly, according to the Department of Health recommendations

Meningitis	Virus	Proper hygiene and hand washing, Sanitation of contaminated objects.	Until the child is cleared to return to school by a health care provider	Yes	No
Tuberculosis	Bacteria	Routine skin testing to determine exposure and infection, Avoid exposure to infected adults.	A minimum of 2 weeks adequate medication therapy and as approved by the health care provider	Yes	Possibly, according to the Department of Health recommendations.
Hepatitis A	Virus	Immunization, Proper hand washing and hygiene, Immune globulin shots during an outbreak.	Until one week after the onset of jaundice or 2 weeks following symptoms onset or as directed by a health care provider	Yes	Possibly, according to the Department of Health recommendations.
Hepatitis B	Virus	Immunization, Cover open wounds and sores, Proper hand washing and hygiene, Proper cleaning of surfaces that may have been contaminated with blood or body fluids.	If there are weeping or bloody sores that cannot be covered. As determined by the health care provider or school physician consultant.	Yes	No
Influenza (flu)	Virus	Annual immunization, Proper hand washing, Proper disposal of tissues, “Cover your cough”	If the child has a fever or other symptoms that meet exclusion criteria by the certified school nurse or a health care provider.	Dependent on the number of cases in a class, group or school.	Possibly, according to the Department of Health recommendations.

Diarrhea	Virus, bacteria, parasite	Proper hand washing and hygiene, Proper food handling and preparation.	Until resolved for 24 hours or as directed by a health care provider.	Dependent on the symptoms, cause and number of cases.	Possibly, according to the Department of Health recommendations.
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The Reading School District will work to decrease the spread of all infections by:

1. Educating families, students and staff about prevention measures that can be done home and at school.
2. Maintaining accurate immunization records for all students. Any student who is not immunized according to the Department of Health guidelines will be excluded from school.
3. Notifying families, students and staff about the presence of communicable diseases in the school setting and community.
4. Providing adequate hand washing supplies in all bathrooms and lunch areas.
5. Providing adequate trash receptacles in the bathrooms and classrooms.
6. Maintaining a clean environment.
7. Providing vaccine clinics for students and staff when available.