

Communicable Diseases

Communicable Disease: A disease that is spread from one person to another through a variety of ways including but not limited too contact with blood and body fluids, airborne droplets, or by insect bites.

Communicable Disease	Incubation Period	Period of Communicability	May return to school
BED BUGS <i>Slightly swollen and red area that may itch and be irritating caused by bite marks</i>	Variable	Until bugs are destroyed	Exclusion from school is not required. Treatment of home is highly recommended
CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) <i>Fever, cough, difficulty breathing, fatigue, body aches, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, vomiting, diarrhea</i>	2-14 Days	Variable	Exclusion from school until 24 hours symptom free without the use of medication.
DIARRHEA <i>Watery stools</i>	Variable	Variable	Exclusion from school until 24 hours after the last episode
FIFTH DISEASE <i>Fever and headache followed by a red rash to the face, trunk, arms, and/or legs</i>	4-21 Days	Greatest before onset of rash and while fever is present	Must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication
HAND, FOOT, & MOUTH <i>Fever, malaise, and sore throat. One or two days after fever starts, painful sores or blisters can develop in the mouth, hands, or feet.</i>	3-6 Days	While fever is present	Must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication
IMPETIGO <i>Pus filed sore that may have a honey colored crust</i>	2-10 Days	Until lesions are healed	Exclusion until 24 hours after initial dose of prescribed medication and lesion is to remain covered until healed.
INFLUENZA <i>Fever, cough, nasal congestion, body aches, fatigue, headache</i>	1-4 Days	One day before symptoms develop and up to seven days after onset of symptoms	Must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication or 5 days, whichever is longer
LICE <i>Tiny insects that can cause scalp itching and irritation. Lice eggs (nits) appear on hair shafts</i>	Variable	Until lice and nits are removed	Live lice: Exclusion from school until treatment is received
MONONUCLEOUS or EPSTEIN BARR VIRUS (MONO) <i>Fever, extreme fatigue, sore throat, headache, body aches, swollen lymph nodes in the neck and armpits, swollen liver or spleen, and rash.</i>	30-50 Days	Prolonged – may persist for a year or more	No exclusion required. Recommended to avoid strenuous activity and contact sports for three to four weeks after the onset of symptoms.

MRSA (Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus) <i>Skin infections that resembles pimples or boils, which can be red, swollen, painful, or have pus or other drainage</i>	Variable, but commonly 4 to 10 days	Active non-treated drainage is infectious	Exclusion from school until medical treatment is received and lesion is to remain covered until healed.
PINK EYE or CONJUNCTIVITIS - Bacterial: pink or reddened sclera, discharge, crusting, itching, painful - Allergic or viral: watery discharge, itching	1-3 Days	During course of active infection	Bacterial: Exclusion until written permission is obtained from a physician to return to school Allergic or Viral: may stay in school
RINGWORM <i>flat, spreading ring-shaped lesion(s) on the body</i>	4-14 Days	As long as lesions are present	Exclusion until medical treatment is received and lesion is to remain covered until healed.
SCABIES <i>Intense itching and a pimple-like rash, which can include tiny blisters and scales caused by tiny mites that burrow under the skin</i>	2-4 Weeks first time. 1-4 Days subsequent times	Until mites and eggs are destroyed	Exclusion until 24 hours following initiation of appropriate antiparasitic therapy.
STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS (STAPH) <i>Skin infections that resembles pimples or boils, which can be red, swollen, painful, or have pus or other drainage</i>	Variable, but commonly 4 to 10 days	Active non-treated drainage is infectious	Exclusion from school until medical treatment is received and lesion is to remain covered until healed.
STREP THROAT <i>Throat pain, red and swollen tonsils, sometimes with white patches or streaks of pus, swollen, tender lymph nodes in neck, fever</i>	1-3 Days	As long as bacteria are present in respiratory secretions. Noninfectious after 24 hours of treatment	Exclusion from school until 24 hours after medical treatment and 24 hours fever free without the use of fever reducing medication.
VOMITTING <i>Involuntary expulsion of gastric contents through mouth</i>	Variable	Variable	Exclusion from school until 24 hours after the last episode

References:

- Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2022)
Kansas School Nurse Organization (KSNO). (2021)
National Association of School Nurses (NASN). (2021)