

Related Policies

Medical Welfare of Students

Rationale/Purpose

To inform school communities of their role in helping health authorities and families manage the control of infectious diseases.

To inform school communities of the requirements of students with regard to immunisation.

Definitions

Immunisation

The process of administering to a person a substance registered as a vaccine in the part of the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods maintained under section 9A of the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989 of the Commonwealth relating to registered goods.

Exclusion

Period of time for which a child is required not to attend school. (Refer to Table A in the policy.)

Policy

Parents of children enrolling in Kindergarten present to the school an Immunisation Certificate. Children who have not been immunised may be required to remain at home during an outbreak of an infectious disease such as whooping cough or measles.

Health regulations state that students suffering certain infectious diseases will be excluded from school for a period of time.

Parents notify the school if their child contracts an infectious disease. The school contacts the Health Department regarding notifiable cases. Parents of immune deficient students are informed of cases of chickenpox and measles.

Procedures

Infectious Diseases

Schools ensure the school community is fully informed of the procedures to be followed relating to infectious diseases.

Parents present Immunisation Certificates to the school prior to the child's enrolment.

Schools follow procedures set down in First Aid policy in regards to Blood Born Viruses (BBV).

The ACT Public Health Regulations 2000 require children with the following conditions, and children who have been in contact with the following conditions, to be excluded from school, preschool, child care or family day care for the periods specified.

TABLE A: PERIODS OF EXCLUSION

Condition	Exclusion of person with condition	Exclusion of persons in contact with condition
Amoebiasis (entamoeba histolytica)	Exclude until diarrhoea ceases.	Not excluded.
*Campylobacteriosis	Exclude until diarrhoea ceases.	Not excluded.
Chicken pox (varicella and herpes zoster)	Exclude until the last blister has scabbed over. The child should not continue to be excluded by reason only of some remaining scabs.	Not excluded. Any child with an immune deficiency (eg with leukaemia, or as a result of receiving chemotherapy) should be excluded for their own protection and seek urgent medical advice and varicella-zoster immunoglobulin (ZIG), if necessary.
Conjunctivitis (acute infectious)	Exclude until discharge from eyes ceases.	Not excluded.
*Cryptosporidiosis	Exclude until diarrhoea ceases.	Not excluded.
Diarrhoea	Exclude until diarrhoea ceases.	Not excluded.
#Diphtheria	Exclude until— (a) at least 2 negative throat swabs have been taken (the first not less than 24 hours after cessation of antibiotic treatment and the second not less than 48 hours later), and (b) a certificate is provided by a doctor recommending that the exclusion should cease.	Exclude family and household contacts until approval to return has been given by the Chief Health Officer.
Giardiasis	Exclude until diarrhoea ceases.	Not excluded.
#Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib) infection	Exclude until a certificate is provided by a medical practitioner recommending that the exclusion should cease.	Not excluded.

Hand, Foot and Mouth disease	Exclude if— (a) child is unwell, or (b) child is drooling, and not all blisters have dried or an exposed weeping blister is not covered with a dressing.	Not excluded.
Head Lice	Exclude until hair has been treated. Solutions available from pharmacies. Everyone living in the same house (as well as linen) should be treated at the same time as the affected person.	Not excluded.
Hepatitis A	Exclude for at least 7 days after the onset of jaundice and a certificate is provided by a doctor recommending that the exclusion should cease.	Not excluded.
Herpes (cold sores)	Exclude young children unable to comply with good hygiene practices while the lesion is weeping. Lesion to be covered by a dressing in all cases, if possible.	Not excluded.
Impetigo (school sores)	Exclude until appropriate treatment has begun and sores on exposed surfaces are covered with a watertight dressing.	Not excluded.
Influenza and influenza-like illnesses	Exclude until well.	Not excluded.
*Leprosy	Exclude until approval to return has been given by the Chief Health Officer.	Not excluded.
#Measles	Exclude for at least 4 days after the rash appears.	(a) Immunised contacts not excluded. (b) Exclude non-immunised contacts until 14 days after the first day of appearance of the rash in the index case. (c) Non-immunised contacts immunised with measles vaccine within 72 hours after their first contact with the index case are not excluded after being immunised.

		(d) Non-immunised contacts who are given normal human immunoglobulin (NHIG) within 7 days after their first contact with the index case are not excluded after being given NHIG.
Meningitis (bacterial)	Exclude until well.	Not excluded.
*Meningococcal infection	Exclude until adequate carrier eradication therapy has begun.	(a) Not excluded if receiving rifampicin or other antibiotic treatment recommended by the Chief Health Officer. (b) Otherwise, excluded until 10 days after last contact with the index case.
*#Mumps	Exclude for 9 days after onset of symptoms, or until parotid swelling goes down (whichever is sooner).	Not excluded.
*#Poliomyelitis	Exclude for at least 14 days after onset of symptoms and until a certificate is provided by a doctor recommending that the exclusion should cease.	Not excluded.
Ringworm, scabies, pediculosis (lice), trachoma	Exclude until effective treatment has commenced.	Not excluded.
Rotavirus	Exclude until diarrhoea ceases.	Not excluded.
*#Rubella (German measles)	Exclude for 4 days after the appearance of the rash.	Not excluded. Female staff of child-bearing age should ensure that their immune status against rubella is adequate.
*Salmonellosis	Exclude until diarrhoea ceases.	Not excluded.
*Shigellosis	Exclude until diarrhoea ceases.	Not excluded.
Streptococcal infection (including scarlet fever)	Exclude until the person has recovered or has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours.	Not excluded.
*Tuberculosis	Exclude until approval to return has been given by the Chief Health Officer.	Not excluded.
*Typhoid and paratyphoid fever	Exclude until a certificate is provided by a doctor	(a) Not excluded unless the Chief Health Officer notifies the person

	recommending that the exclusion should cease.	in charge of the school. (a) If the Chief Health Officer gives notice, exclusion is subject to the conditions in the notice.
*#Whooping cough (pertussis)	Exclude for 21 days from start of cough, or for at least 5 days after starting a course of antibiotics recommended by the Chief Health Officer.	Exclude non-immunised household, home based child care and close child care contacts under 7 years old for 14 days after the last exposure to infection, or until 5 days after starting a course of antibiotics recommended by the Chief Health Officer (whichever is sooner).
Worms (intestinal)	Exclude until diarrhoea ceases.	Not excluded.

A parent/carer of a child with a listed exclusion condition or a child who has been in contact with a listed exclusion condition notifies the school principal or principal carer as soon as possible.

* These conditions must be notified by medical practitioners to the Chief Health Officer.

Immunisation

ACT

All students are encouraged to be immunised.

Under the ACT Public Health Regulations 2000, preschools and primary schools collect and maintain immunisation records on all newly enrolled children.

All parents/carers of children entering preschools or primary schools are issued with current Parents Guide, ACT Immunisation Requirements for Entry into School, Preschool and Child Care.

The ACT Public Health Regulations 2000 do not prevent children from entering a preschool or primary school if they are not fully immunised but requires parents to produce a record of their child's immunisation history on the approved ACT Department of Health and Community Care Immunisation Record Form.

NSW

All students are encouraged to be immunised.

Prospective students are not excluded from attending school if they have not been immunised.

Since 1994, parents of all students in NSW have been requested, under the NSW Public Health Act, to provide evidence of age-appropriate immunisation, usually an immunisation certificate, at the time of school enrolment. A letter from a medical practitioner or Community Health Centre indicating the immunisation status of the student is also acceptable.

References

Health Regulations 2000: www.legislation.act.gov.au/sl/2000-1/current/pdf/2000-1.pdf

NSW Health Regulations: <http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maintop/view/inforce/act+127+2010+cd+0+N>

Head Lice: http://www.det.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/19447/HEADLICE.pdf

Forms

Nil

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