



Edisford Primary School

Confidence. Persistence. Getting Along. Organisation. Resilience.

Absence and Infectious Diseases Policy

Please find below guidance regarding infectious diseases and attendance at school.

Infection or Complaint	Recommended Period of Exclusion	Comments
Antibiotics	First 24 hours, if the child is feeling well enough. Consider how you as a parent can administer antibiotics as teachers cannot do this without a health care plan for an underlying condition.	After the first 24 hours, the child may attend school; please see above information regarding prescribed medicines.
Chicken Pox	Until all vesicles (spots) have crusted over.	Please inform school if your child is infected with one of these rashes, as there are potential risks to female staff (during pregnancy) and to vulnerable children.
German Measles	5 days from onset of rash.	
Measles	4 days from onset of rash.	
Slapped cheek/Parvovirus	None (once rash has developed).	
Hand, Foot and Mouth	While the child is unwell.	
COVID-19	If you have COVID-19, you should try to stay at home. Most people cannot get free COVID-19 tests. You can buy tests in shops, but you cannot report results to the NHS.	Contact school to inform of absence.
Mumps	5 days after onset of swelling.	

<i>Impetigo</i>	<i>Until lesions are crusted and healed or 48 hours after starting antibiotics.</i>	
<i>Flu</i>	<i>Until recovered.</i>	<i>Please inform school due to risks for vulnerable children.</i>

<i>Whooping Cough (Pertussis)</i>	<i>Stay off school until 48 hours after starting antibiotics, or 3 weeks after symptoms started if you have not had antibiotics.</i>	
<i>Scabies</i>	<i>Child can return after first treatment.</i>	<i>All members of the household and those in close contact should receive treatment.</i>
<i>Conjunctivitis</i>	<i>None.</i>	
<i>Diarrhoea or vomiting</i>	<i>48 hours from last episode.</i>	<i>This is 24 hours after last bout plus 24 hours recovery time.</i>
<i>Gastro-enteritis Food Poisoning Salmonella Dysentery</i>	<i>48 hours or until certified well by a doctor.</i>	
<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Child can return 24 hours after starting antibiotic treatment.</i>	
<i>Infection or Complaint</i>	<i>Recommended Period of Exclusion</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<i>Diphtheria</i>	<i>Exclusion is essential. Consult with local Health Protection Team (HPT).</i>	<i>Notifiable disease</i>
<i>Meningitis</i>	<i>Until recovered.</i>	<i>Be vigilant for a rash that does not fade when a glass is rolled over it or high sensitivity to bright lights or stiff neck.</i>
<i>Head lice</i>	<i>None.</i>	<i>Please wet comb thoroughly for first treatment and then</i>

		<i>every three days for next two weeks to remove all lice.</i>
<i>Cold sores</i>	<i>Only if unwell.</i>	<i>Encourage hand washing to reduce viral spread. Avoid contact until crusted over.</i>
<i>Ringworm</i>	<i>Until treatment has commenced.</i>	<i>Persist with treatment for at least two weeks after rash disappears.</i>
<i>Threadworms</i>	<i>None.</i>	<i>Encourage hand washing, including nail scrubbing.</i>
<i>Viral infections</i>	<i>Until the child is well and temperature is normal (37 degrees).</i>	

Legal Obligations

Teachers' conditions of service do not include any legal or contractual obligation to administer medicine or to supervise a pupil taking medicine.

Staff will not, therefore, administer/store any medicine other than those described in our Medicine Policy (as part of an agreed Long Term Health Care Plan). This includes antibiotics and non-prescription medicines such as Calpol/paracetamol and aspirin.

Updated July 2025.

Review date July 2026.