

When to keep Your Child Home from School or Day Care

(These guidelines were supplied by the Georgia Department of Human Resources)

DISEASE	INCUBATION PERIOD	HOW TRANSMITTED	CONTAGIOUS	RESTRICT FROM SCHOOL/CENTER	RETURN TO SCHOOL/CENTER	PREVENTION OF TRANSMISSION
Chickenpox	7-21 days	respiratory and direct contact with lesions	Yes	Yes	5 to 7 days after first lesion (all lesions crusted)	Immunoglobulin (YZIG) injection available for children at high risk. Vaccine being developed.
Common Cold	1-5 days	Sneezing, nose blowing and contaminated hands and toys	Yes	No		Handwashing. Children and staff cover nose with tissue and dispose.
Conjunctivitis (pink eye)	24-72 hours	Contact with discharge from conjunctivitis and upper respiratory tract through hands, clothing	Yes	Yes	When active infection discharge and redness no longer present	Handwashing. Disinfect all articles. No contact with eye discharge.
Diphtheria	1-6 days	Close contact with secretions or lesions of infected person	Yes	Yes	Written release from physician	Immunizations
Hepatitis A	15-20 days	Contaminated food/water (fecal/oral route)	Yes	Yes	Written release from physician	Disinfect changing table. Handwashing. Proper handling of food, disposal of waste.
H. Flu Meningitis/Septicemia	Unknown	Direct contact with droplets and discharges from nose and throat of infected person	Yes	Yes	Written release from physician	Avoid close contact. HIB vaccine.
Impetigo	4-10 days	Direct contact with lesions (weeping sores)	Yes	Yes	Written release from physician	Handwashing
Influenza	24-72 hours	Droplet and respiratory spread (coughing and sneezing)	Yes	For 2 days from onset		Immunization
Lice	Eggs hatch 7-10 days	Sharing combs, brushes, hats, scarves, bedding, clothing stored close together	Yes	Yes	After medicated shampoo	Handwashing and not sharing personal articles. Proper treatment.
Measles	8-12 days	Respiratory	Yes	Yes	5th day after rash appears	Immunization
Meningococcal Meningitis/Septicemia	2-10 days	Direct contact with droplets and discharges from nose and throat of infected person	Yes	Yes	Written release from physician	Prophylactic treatment of close contacts
Mumps	12-22 days	Respiratory droplets	Yes	Yes	9 days after start of parotid swelling	Immunization
Other Viral Gastroenteritis	24-48 hours	Possible food and water contamination (fecal-oral route)	Yes	Yes	After diarrhea	Handwashing, Proper disposal of waste. Good hygiene. Disinfection of changing table.
Pertussis	6-20 days	Direct contact with discharge from respiratory tract	Yes-Highly communicable in early stages	Yes	Written release from physician	Immunization
Ringworm (Fungus)	2-4 days	Direct contact with lesion of humans/animals with lesions.	Yes	If cannot be covered with dressing or clothing	After medication started, clothing, bedding, wash hot cycle.	Handwashing and not sharing articles.
Rotavirus	1-3 days	Fecal-oral route. Possibility of respiratory transmission	Yes	Yes	After diarrhea	Handwashing, Proper disposal of diapers and waste. Disinfection of changing table. Good hygiene.
Rubella	14-21 days	Respiratory and placental	Yes	Yes	7th day after first rash appears	Immunization
Scabies	Eggs hatch in about 10 days	Direct contact with infected person, clothing, bedding	Yes	Yes	24 hours after treated with medicated lotion.	Handwashing and not sharing articles.
Strep Throat	1-3 days	Direct, intimate contact. Respiratory, food.	Yes	Yes	Until 24 hours after start antibiotic therapy and no fever	Handwashing. Do not share cups, eating utensils or food.