

Handout – Public Health England guidance on infection control in schools

	Recommended period to be kept away from school	Comments
Rashes and infections		
Chickenpox	Five days from the onset of rash	See: Vulnerable children and female staff – pregnancy
German measles (rubella)	Six days from onset of rash	Preventable by immunisation
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted and healed, or 48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment	Antibiotic treatment speeds healing and reduces the infectious period
Measles	Four days from onset of rash	
Scarlet fever	Child can return 24 hours after commencing appropriate antibiotic treatment	Antibiotic treatment recommended for the affected child
Slapped cheek (fifth disease or parvovirus B19)	None	See: Vulnerable children and female staff – pregnancy
Shingles	Exclude only if rash is weeping and cannot be covered	
Diarrhoea and vomiting illness		
E. coli O157 VTEC	Should be excluded for 48 hours from the last episode of diarrhoea	Further exclusion may be required for young children under five and those who have difficulty in adhering to hygiene practices
Respiratory infections		
Flu (influenza)	Until recovered	See: Vulnerable children
Whooping cough* (pertussis)	5 days from commencing antibiotic treatment, or 21 days from onset of illness if no antibiotic treatment	Preventable by vaccination
Other infections		
Conjunctivitis	None	If an outbreak/cluster occurs, consult the Duty Room
Glandular Fever	None	
Head lice	None	Treatment is recommended only in cases where live lice have been seen