

STAFF ILLNESS GUIDELINES

These guidelines refer to staff members who come into direct contact with children.

A staff member should be excluded from work for the following conditions:

Condition	Exclusion and Comments
Chicken Pox	Until sores have dried and crusted, usually by 6 days.
Conjunctivitis (“pink eye” with white or yellow discharge, eye pain and redness)	Until 24 hours after treatment starts.
Diarrhea	3 or more episodes during past 24 hours, until diarrhea resolves.
Fifth’s disease	May attend, no longer contagious once rash illness appears.
Hand, foot and mouth	May attend. If illness limits staff ability to work then exclude.
Head lice/scabies	Until after first treatment is completed.
Hepatitis A	For 1 week after onset, or as directed by health department.
Herpes cold sores	May attend, if covered and staff do not touch sores. Staff should not kiss or nuzzle infants/children. Follow handwashing policies.
Measles	Until 4 days after onset of rash.
Pertussis (whooping cough)	Until 5 days after antibiotic therapy.
Rash	With fever or joint pain. Diagnosis by health care provider necessary.
Respiratory illness	May attend with simple colds. If illness limits staff ability to work and compromises health and safety of children, then exclude.
Shingles	May attend, if covered by a dressing until the sores have crusted.
Skin infection (Impetigo)	Until 24 hours after treatment starts.
Strep throat	Until 24 hours after antibiotics and fever free.
Vomiting	2 or more episodes during past 24 hours, until vomiting resolves, or proven non-infectious.

Handout developed by The Children's Hospital School Health Program (303)-281-2790 Denver, CO 1999, revised 2003

References:

- American Academy of Pediatrics, American Public Health Association, National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care, *Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards*, Second Edition, Elk Grove Village, IL 2002
- Kendrick AS, Kaufman R., Messenger KP, Eds. *Healthy Young Children: A Manual for Programs*. Washington, D.C. National Association for the Education of Young Children; 2002