

Public Health England

Guidance on infection control in schools

Infection or complaint	Recommended period to be kept away from school	Comments
Athlete's Foot	None	Athlete's foot is not a serious condition. Treatment is recommended
Chickenpox	Until all vesicles have crusted over	
Conjunctivitis	None	
Diarrhoea and/or vomiting	48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting	
Flu (Influenza)	Until recovered	
Glandular Fever	None	
Head lice (nits)	None	Treatment is required in cases where live lice have been seen
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted and healed, or 48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment	
Measles	Four days from onset of rash	Preventable by vaccination (MMR x2)
Mumps	5 days after onset of swelling	Preventable by vaccination (MMR x2)
Ringworm	Exclusion not usually required	Treatment is required
Scarlet Fever	Child can return 24 hours after starting appropriate antibiotic treatment	Antibiotic treatment is recommended for the affected child
Shingles	Exclude only if rash is weeping and cannot be covered	Can cause chickenpox in those who are not immune, ie have not had chickenpox. It is spread by very close contact and touch
Threadworms	None	Treatment is recommended for the child and household contacts
Tonsillitis	None	There are many causes, but most cases are due to viruses and do not need an antibiotic
Vomiting and/or diarrhoea	48 hours from last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting	
Warts and Verrucae	None	Verrucae should be covered in swimming pools, gymnasiums and changing rooms