

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOLS AND CHILD CARE FACILITIES – QUICK REFERENCE CHART

DISEASE	CAUSE/SYMPTOMS	TRANSMISSION	INCUBATION	PERIOD OF COMMUNICABILITY	EXCLUSION	REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
Chickenpox (Varicella)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cause: Virus. • Fever, blister-like rash in successive crops. “Spots” appear first on body, face, and scalp, then arms and legs. • Scabs appear after the blister stage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person-to-person by direct contact with virus through droplet or airborne spread of blister fluid or respiratory secretions. • Indirectly through freshly contaminated objects and surfaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 to 21 days; commonly 14 to 16 days. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually 1 to 2 days before onset of rash, until all blisters are crusted (usually about 5 days after the onset of rash). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended until crusted over. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report number of cases and age of children on a weekly basis by mail or fax to 613-933-7930.
Conjunctivitis-Bacterial (Pink Eye)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cause: Bacteria. • Purulent conjunctivitis: Pink or red conjunctiva (the white of the eye) with white or yellow discharge (pus). • Sometimes fever. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person-to-person with direct or indirect contact with eye secretions. • Healthy eye coming in contact with secretions from affected eye. • Frequent handwashing is important for control of spread. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 to 72 hours. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For duration of infection or until 24 hours of effective antibiotic treatment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For bacterial or possible bacterial, exclude until treated with antibiotic drops or ointment for 24 hours. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not required. • For more information, visit www.caringforkids.cps.ca
Conjunctivitis-Viral (Pink Eye)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cause: Virus. • Non-purulent conjunctivitis: Pink conjunctiva with a clear, watery eye discharge and no fever, eye pain or eyelid redness. • May be accompanied by a cold. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person-to-person by direct or indirect contact with eye secretions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 hours to 12 days. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For duration of infection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not required, if no eye discharge. • To consider, if strict hand hygiene cannot be ensured. Otherwise, child can return upon approval by healthcare provider. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not required. • For more information, visit www.caringforkids.cps.ca
Coxsackie Virus (Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cause: Virus. • Acute self-limited viral infection. • Sudden onset of fever, sore throat. • Rash occurs commonly on the palms of the hands, the fingers, inside the mouth and on the soles of the feet. • Acute illness usually occurs in children, particularly in the summer months. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person-to-person by direct contact with fluid from sores, respiratory secretions and fecal-oral route. • Although most common in young children, asymptomatic adults can also spread infection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually 3 to 5 days. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most infectious during the first week of illness while experiencing symptoms. • Transmission via stools and throat secretions may persist for several weeks. • Hand hygiene is important. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not required. • For more information, visit www.caringforkids.cps.ca
Fifth Disease (Parvovirus B19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cause: Virus. • Illness is mild, usually with no fever. • Initial “slapped cheek” rash. • Followed by lacelike rash (1 to 4 days later, on the arms and body; can fade but may recur and last for 1 to 3 weeks). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person-to-person by respiratory secretions. • Mother to fetus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 to 14 days but can be as long as 21 days. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greatest before onset of rash, and probably not communicable after onset of rash. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not required since no longer infectious after rash appears. • Pregnant women, children with sickle cell and other forms of chronic anemia should be advised to consult their physician. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not required. • For more information, visit www.caringforkids.cps.ca
Impetigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cause: Bacteria. • Skin infection caused by streptococcus / staphylococcus bacteria. • Usually appears on face or exposed skin as a rash with cluster of red bumps/blisters. • May ooze or be crusted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person-to-person by direct or indirect contact with fluid from sores. • Very infectious and should be treated at once. • Will spread quickly, particularly if scratched. • Hand hygiene is important in preventing transmission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variable. • Average 4 to 10 days. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From onset of rash until 24 hours of treatment with oral or topical antibiotic. • Typically until blisters have crusted over. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Until sores are completely scabbed over or for at least 24 hours following initiation of treatment. • Upon return, any draining or open blisters must be covered with a clean dry bandage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not required. • For more information, visit www.caringforkids.cps.ca
Influenza	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cause: Influenza A or B virus. • Infection of the airways, leading to fever, headache, muscle soreness, runny nose, sore throat and cough. • Children may also have nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person-to-person by direct contact with respiratory secretions or indirect contact with contaminated surfaces or objects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 to 3 days. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 hours before onset of symptoms. • Up to 7 days in young children. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exclude for 5 days after the onset of symptoms OR until fever-free and feeling better, whichever is shorter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report within 1 working day to 613-933-1375 or 1 800 267-7120. • Report outbreaks immediately.
Pinworms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cause: Worms. • Itching around the anal area. • Irritability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pinworm eggs transmitted to others by fecal-oral route. • Contaminated bedding, food or clothing. • Hand hygiene is very important. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 to 8 weeks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During incubation period, until treatment is initiated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Until treatment is initiated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not required. • For more information, visit www.caringforkids.cps.ca
Ringworm (Tinea)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cause: Fungus. • Flat, spreading, ring-shaped, discoloured patches on the skin. • May be dry and scaly or moist and crusted. • Itchiness is common. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Person-to-person by direct skin-to-skin contact. • Indirect spread by contaminated hands, objects and surfaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually 10 to 14 days. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For duration of illness or until treatment is initiated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Until treatment has been initiated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not required. • For more information, visit www.caringforkids.cps.ca

