

## Criteria for Excluding Children from Child Care

CONDITION	EXCLUSION	PREVENTION
<b>Cough</b>	The vast majority of cough illness in children is from viruses; and coughs may linger after congestion goes away. Medical evaluation is only necessary for children with very severe cough, high persistent fever, or who appear ill. Chronic or recurrent cough may indicate asthma and should be evaluated.	Handwashing, air out room daily, clean surfaces and utensils.
<b>Ear Infections</b>	Generally not contagious. Exclusion not warranted unless high fever or ill appearance. Ear infections do not always need to be treated with antibiotics.	Handwashing, air out room daily, clean surfaces and utensils.
<b>Colds / Nasal Congestion / Discharge</b>	Most common symptoms of viral infections. Viruses are contagious, even before symptoms appear. The color of mucus (even yellow or green) is common to viral illnesses. Neither exclusion nor antibiotics are warranted. Children with a high or persistent fever or severe nasal discharge who have not improved after 10-14 days may be evaluated for sinus infections.	Handwashing, air out room daily, clean surfaces and utensils (Flu vaccine for high-risk children).
<b>Chicken Pox (Varicella)</b>	Exclude for five days after the onset of the rash <b>OR</b> until all lesions have dried and crusted over, whichever is later.	Immunize.
<b>Conjunctivitis (Pink eye)</b>	Exclude for 24 hours after treatment begins for purulent conjunctivitis (red or pink conjunctiva with white or yellow discharge)	Make sure hands are clean before treating child's eye and promote good hygiene; wash hands after contact with child's eye or with discharge.
<b>Diarrhea</b>	Exclude when the stool is watery loose <b>AND</b> cannot be contained by diapers or controlled by toilet use. Exclude if stool contains blood or mucus, or accompanied by a fever.	Handwashing after any contact with stool.
<b>Head Lice (Pediculosis)</b>	Exclude until morning after treatment begins	Early detection is best, avoid physical contact with infested person and his or her belongings. Always keep belongings of children separated; wash and dry all items in contact with the infected person.

Adapted from *Health & Safety in Child Care A Guide for Providers in Massachusetts*, MDPH, 1995.

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<b>Impetigo</b>	Exclude for 24 hours after treatment begins	Handwashing, air out room daily; clean surfaces and utensils.
<b>Mouth Sores</b>	Exclude only children who cannot control their saliva, unless the child's physician or local health department states the child is not infectious	Handwashing.
<b>Pertussis</b>	Exclude until 5 days of appropriate antibiotic therapy has been completed. If no antibiotics are taken, exclude for 3 weeks after onset of cough	Immunize; antibiotics for those in contact with infected person.
<b>Rash</b>	Exclude if accompanied by a fever or behavior change until a physician determines that the illness is not a communicable disease	Handwashing.
<b>Ringworm (Tinea)</b>	Exclude until after treatment begins	Keep environment clean, dry, and cool.
<b>Scabies</b>	Exclude until treatment is completed	Wash and dry all washable items that were in contact with the infected skin; always keep belongings of children separated.
<b>Strep Throat</b>	Exclude for 24 hours after treatment begins <b>AND</b> the child has had a normal temperature for 24 hours	Handwashing, air out room daily, clean surfaces and utensils.
<b>Vomiting</b>	Exclude if the child has vomited two or more times in the previous 24 hours, unless the vomiting is determined to be due to a non-communicable condition and the child is not in danger of dehydration	Handwashing.

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