

School Exclusions



Sept. 2015

Communicable Disease Division
3629 South D Street, Tacoma, WA 98418
(253) 798-6410 (phone) • (253) 798-7666 (fax)

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Please keep your child home from school if he or she has one of these conditions or illnesses listed below. Exclusion from attending school is necessary when your child is either too ill to participate in normal school activities, the condition or illness creates an unsafe or unhealthy environment for others at school, or when the illness requires a level of care or observation that cannot be managed at school.

Conditions requiring exclusion:

Chicken Pox/Varicella	Keep home until all blisters have scabs and no new blisters are forming.
Fever	Keep home if fever over 100.4°F accompanied by behavior changes or other signs and symptoms of illness such as sore throat, rash, vomiting, diarrhea, earache, irritability or confusion.
Impetigo	Keep home until after 24 hours of antibiotics.
Influenza/Flu	Keep home until fever-free for 24 hours.
Mumps	Keep home until five days after onset of swelling.
Ringworm	Keep home until after medical treatment is started.
Scabies	Keep home until treatment is completed.
Shingles	Keep home until rash can be covered or when all lesions have crusted.
Skin infections/MRSA	Keep home until drainage can be contained with a dry, clean dressing.
Strep throat/Scarlet fever	Keep home until child has taken antibiotics for 24 hours and is fever-free.
Viral gastroenteritis	Keep home until child is without vomiting and diarrhea and can participate in normal school activities.
Whooping cough/Pertussis	Keep home until child has had five days of appropriate antibiotic treatment.
Other less common infectious diseases may require exclusion	Check with your school district's policy and Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department: (253) 798-6410, press "0".

Sources: Infectious Disease Control Guide for School Staff 2014; Department of Health; Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Conditions generally not requiring exclusion (unless child is not able to participate in normal school activities or meets other exclusion criteria):

- Bronchitis
- Common colds (without fever)
- Conjunctivitis
- Cytomegalovirus (CMV) virus
- Fifth disease
- Ear infection
- Hand-Foot-and-Mouth disease
- Molluscum Contagiosum
- Mononucleosis
- Pinworm
- Pneumonia
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)
- Warts

Exceptions to the exclusion/return guidelines may be made by the local health department, primary care physician, private and public schools on an individual case-by-case basis.