

Fact Sheet

Exclusion from childcare, preschool, school and work

The spread of certain infectious diseases can be reduced by excluding a person, known to be infectious, from contact with others who are at risk of catching the infection.

The following are recommended minimum periods of exclusion from school, preschool and childcare centres for cases of, and contact with, infectious diseases, based on guidelines issued by the National Health and Medical Research Council in 2005 and the online Australian Immunisation Handbook.

These guidelines can also be applied to the general community and most workplaces. A childcare worker with gastroenteritis (also known as 'gastro': inflammation of the intestinal (bowels)), should not return to work for at least 24 hours after vomiting or diarrhoea have stopped.

Exclusion Periods

The need for exclusion depends on:

- > The ease with which the infection can be spread
- > The ability of the infected person to follow hygiene precautions
- Whether or not the person has some immunity to the infection (either vaccination or past infection)
- To a lesser extent, the severity of the disease.

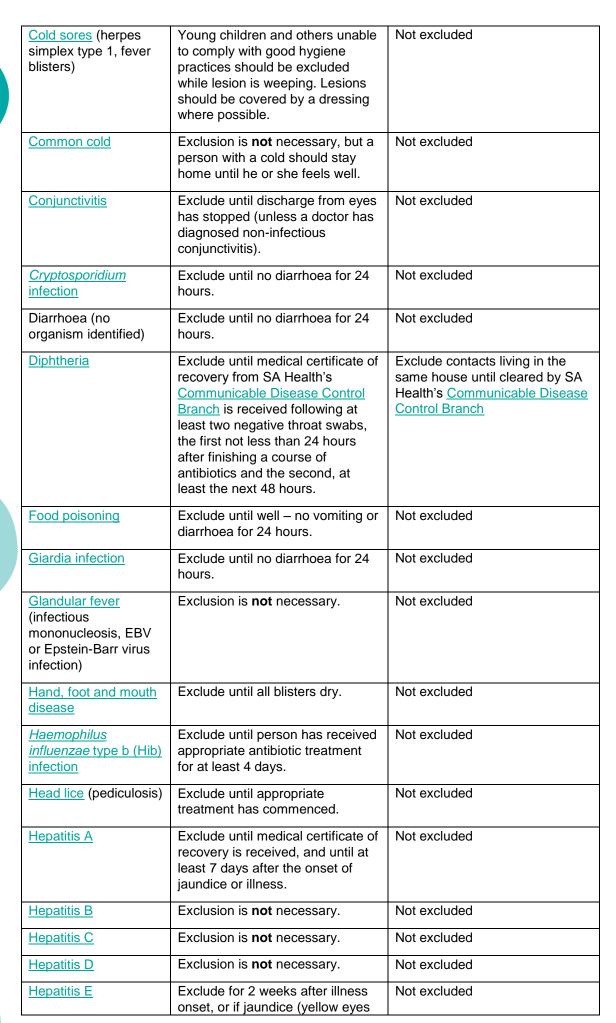
Definitions

Exclusion periods are based on the time that a person with a specific disease or condition might be infectious to others.

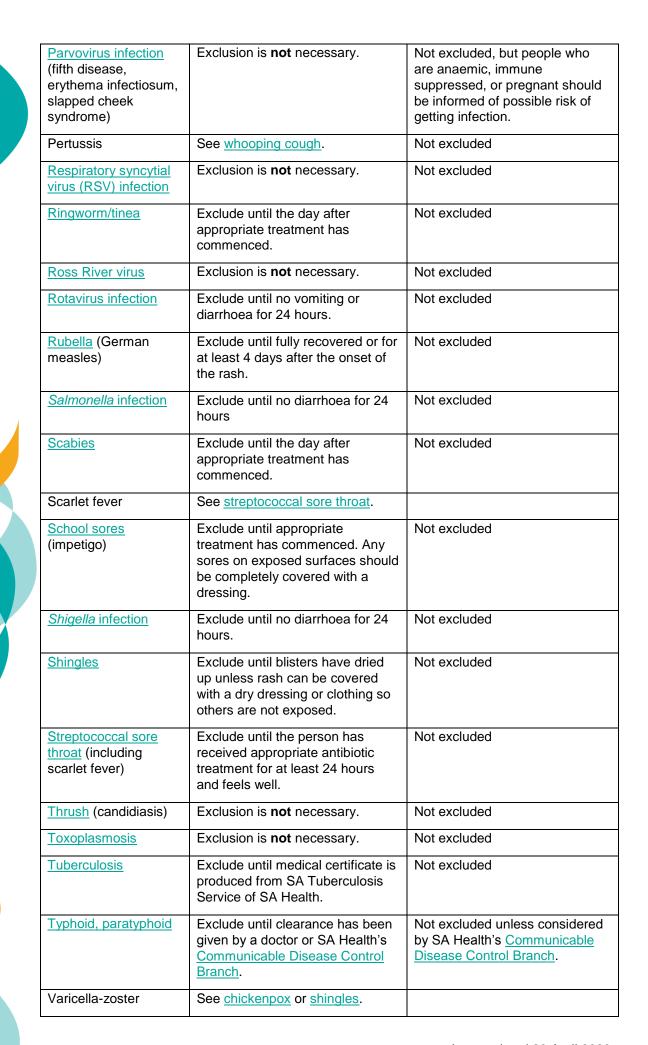
Non-exclusion means there is not a significant risk of transmitting infection to others. A person who is not excluded may still need to remain at home because he or she does not feel well.

A **contact** is any person who has been close enough to an infected person to be at risk of having acquired the infection from that person.

Disease or condition	Exclusion of case	Exclusion of contacts
Amoebiasis (Entamoeba histolytica)	Exclude until no diarrhoea for 24 hours.	Not excluded
<u>Campylobacter</u> <u>infection</u>	Exclude until no diarrhoea for 24 hours.	Not excluded
Candidiasis	See thrush.	
Chickenpox	Exclude until all blisters have dried (usually 5 days)	Any child with an immune deficiency (for example, leukaemia) or receiving chemotherapy should be excluded for their own protection. Otherwise not excluded.
Cytomegalovirus information (CMV)	Exclusion is not necessary	Not excluded



	or skin) occurs, for 7 days after the onset of jaundice.	
Herpes simplex infection type 1	See <u>cold sores</u> .	
Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection	Exclusion is not necessary. If the person is severely immune suppressed he or she will be vulnerable to other people's infections.	Not excluded
Hydatid disease	Exclusion is not necessary.	Not excluded
Impetigo	See school sores.	
Influenza and influenza-like illnesses	Exclude until well (at lease 5 days for adults and 7-10 days for children).	Not excluded
Legionnaires' disease	Exclusion is not necessary	Not excluded
Leprosy	Exclude until clearance has been given by an infectious diseases physician, dermatologist or SA Health Communication Disease Control Branch doctor.	Not excluded
Measles	Exclude until 4 days after the onset of the rash.	Immunised and immune contacts are not excluded. Non-immunised contacts are excluded from childcare until 14 days after rash onset in the last case in the in the facility, unless given vaccine (within 72 hours of first exposure) or Normal Human Immunoglobulin (within 144 hours of first exposure). All immune suppressed children should be excluded until 14 days after rash onset in the last case in the facility.
Meningitis (bacterial)	Exclude until well and has received appropriate antibiotics.	Not excluded
Meningitis (viral)	Exclude until well.	Not excluded
Meningococcal infection	Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment completed and until well.	Not excluded
Molluscum contagiosum	Exclusion is not necessary.	Not excluded
Methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) skin infection	Exclusion is not necessary unless infected skin lesions on exposed surfaces cannot be completely covered with a dressing.	Not excluded
<u>Mumps</u>	Exclude for 5 days after onset of swelling.	Not excluded
Norovirus	Exclude until no vomiting or diarrhoea for 24 hours.	Not excluded



Viral gastroenteritis (viral diarrhoea)	Exclude until no diarrhoea for 24 hours.	
Warts (common, flat and plantar)	Exclusion is not necessary.	
Whooping cough	Exclude from childcare, school or workplace and similar settings until 5 days after starting antibiotic treatment, or for 21 days from the start of any cough.	For exclusions of contacts in a childcare setting, seek advice from SA Health's Communicable Disease Control Branch. Usually, childcare contacts (in the same childcare group or room) and household contacts of the case who are under 6 months of aged and have received less than 3 doses of pertussis containing vaccine should be excluded from childcare for 14 days from the first exposure to the infectious case, unless he or she has completed 5 days of recommended antibiotic treatment, after which he or she may return to childcare.
Worms	If diarrhoea present, exclude until no diarrhoea for 24 hours.	Not excluded
Yersinia infection	Exclude until no diarrhoea for 24 hours.	Not excluded

For more information

Communicable Disease Control Branch Telephone: 1300 232 272 Email: HealthCommunicableDiseases@sa.gov.au www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/youvegotwhat



