

Dear Parent or Guardian:

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

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 & 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.
Lice/Nits	Washington Administrative Code (law) requires exclusion until nit free.
Mumps	Keep home until 9 days after onset of swelling.
Pink-eye/Conjunctivitis	Keep home until drainage is gone, upon health care provider approval or until child has taken antibiotic eye drops or ointment for 24 hours.
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 and that does not have to be changed at childcare. MRSA infections in the diaper area must be healed so they are not open and draining.
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 activities.
Whooping cough/Pertussis	Keep home until child has had 5 days of appropriate antibiotic treatment.
Other less common infectious diseases may require exclusion	Check with your child care program's policy and Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (253) 798-6410

Source: American Academy of Pediatrics, Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and Schools, 2005.

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)
- Cytomegalovirus (CMV) virus
- Ear infection
- Fifth disease
- Hand-Foot-and-Mouth disease
- Mononucleosis
- Molluscum Contagiosum
- Pinworms
- Pneumonia
- Red eye(s) without yellow or green discharge
- Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)
- Warts

Exceptions to the exclusion/return to school guidelines listed may be made by the local health department and/or primary care physician on an individual case-by-case basis.