School and Childcare Exclusion List

Official School and Child Care Exclusion List of Contagious or Communicable Diseases

Statutory authority: SC Code of Laws Sections 44-1-140, 44-29-200; 63-13-180
SC Code of Regulations Chapter 61-20 and Chapter 114, Article 5

Guidance for Implementing the School and Childcare Exclusion List

1. The **School and Childcare Exclusion List** applies to the following groups of people in out-of-home childcare, (as defined in S.C. Code Ann. Section 63-13-20), and in any public, private, parochial, church or Sunday school (Reg 61-20).
   - o Children and staff in out-of-home childcare settings;
   - o Preschool/kindergarten students in grades 3K, 4K, and 5K;
   - o Students in grades 1-12; and
   - o School employees and staff (including volunteers) who have contact with students.
2. **Parent Notification:** Schools and childcare providers are encouraged to distribute the list of conditions that require exclusion from school attendance to parents/guardians, and/or distribute parent brochures developed by DHEC. The list is also available at http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/ChildTeenHealth/SchoolExclusion.
3. **Parent Reporting to School:** Schools and childcare providers should inform parents/guardians that they must notify the school within 24 hours after the child has developed a known or suspected communicable illness addressed on the Exclusion List.
4. **Return to School:** Students, children and staff may return to the school as soon as their symptoms are resolved, unless stated otherwise in the Exclusion List or by their health care provider.
5. **Special Circumstances:** Immunocompromised or medically fragile children with an excludable condition or exposure may need longer periods of exclusion, subject to recommendations by their health care provider(s) or by DHEC. For the purposes of school exclusion, the term "medically fragile" refers to those students with special health care needs or developmental delays who require close assistance with feeding or other personal hygiene activities by which communicable illnesses may be easily spread. Nothing in these criteria precludes the exercise of the professional judgment of local education agency medical and/or nursing staff to protect the health of students.
6. **Exclusion criteria that vary** by age or grade level are indicated in the Exclusion List. "Young children" or "younger children" as indicated in the List are generally those in childcare, preschool, or kindergarten grades. When students are taught or routinely spend time in mixed age groups, the standards for the youngest children in the group apply. Conditions that do not require exclusion for school and/or childcare staff are indicated in the tables on the following pages.
7. **Notes / Documentation for Return:** A student may return to school as indicated in the tables that follow. Physicians, nurse practitioners, or physician assistants may provide medical notes for return to school following an excludable condition or DHEC may provide a release to return based on a negative test result or other circumstance. Medical notes, which document diagnosis, initiation of treatment, improvement in status, etc., and parent notes should be kept on file at the school for at least one calendar year, or as otherwise required by local school district policy. Medical notes may not shorten or abrogate the minimum period of exclusion required by DHEC for any specific condition.
8. **Period of Exclusion:**

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COVID-19 related
symptoms:

Diarrhea[1] (Gastrointestinal Illness, cause not identified or cause has not yet been determined)	Varies, often associated with poor toileting habits, food and drink, contaminated fomites, environmental exposures including animals and recreational water; may be bacterial, parasitic or viral.

Children, students and staff with the following conditions must be excluded from the school or out-of-home childcare until the exclusions criteria have been met and documentation has been provided as noted below:

Disease/ Agent	Mode of Transmission	Contagious Period	Report to Public Health	Exclusion	Documentation for Return
				Special Circumstances for Diarrhea Exclude students of any age and staff with	

Children, students and staff with the following conditions must be excluded from the school or out-of-home childcare

Children,

Children, students and staff with the following conditions must be excluded from the school or out-of-home childcare until the exclusions criteria have been met and documentation has been provided as noted below:

Disease/ Agent	Mode of Transmission	Contagious Period	Report to Public Health	Exclusion	Documentation for Return
	contaminated fomites, by ingestion of contaminated food or water, or animal contact.				
Diarrhea ( )	Recreational water contact, the fecal-oral route through direct person-to-person contact or contaminated fomites, by ingestion of contaminated food, water, or animal contact.	Can be up to months, most contagious during diarrhea phase	Report outbreaks IMMEDIATELY by phone Report within 3 days	Exclude until diarrheal symptoms are resolved for at least 24 hours.	Parent note or staff statement that diarrhea has resolved for 24

Children, students and staff with the following

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Disease/ Agent	Mode of Transmission	Contagious Period	Report to Public Health	Exclusion	Documentation for Return
Hand, foot and mouth Disease	Direct contact with infected: nose discharge throat discharge blisters feces	The virus may be shed for weeks to months in the stool after the infection starts; respiratory shedding of the virus is			

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Disease/ Agent	Mode of Transmission	Contagious Period	Report to Public Health	Exclusion	Documentation for Return
				[illegible] 249 11.04 Tf 1 0 0 1 438.55 486.2	
				Students identified with head	

Children, students and staff with the following conditions must be excluded from the school or out-of-home childcare until the exclusions criteria have been met and documentation has been provided as noted below:

Disease/ Agent	Mode of Transmission	Contagious Period	Report to Public Health	Exclusion	Documentation for Return
	ingestion of contaminated4 0.4				

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Disease/ Agent	Mode of Transmission	Contagious Period	

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Disease/ Agent	Mode of Transmission	Contagious Period	

Children, students and staff with the following conditions must be excluded from the school or out-of-home childcare until the exclusions

Strep Throat (Streptococcal pharyngitis)	Respiratory (droplet) route or contact with contaminated objects.	Infectious until treated with appropriate antibiotic	Report outbreaks only	Exclude until afebrile and at least 24 hours after treatment has been initiated.	Medical note documenting initiation of treatment, with parent note of afebrile status
TB (Tuberculosis) (Suspect or confirmed TB-cough with bloody	Airborne route.	Varies with progression and severity of illness	Report within 24 hours by phone	Exclude for active (infectious) TB, until the local health department authority or treating infectious disease physician states that the student or staff member is noninfectious.	The health department or infectious disease physician must clear the student or staff

Children, students and staff with the following conditions must be excluded from the school or out-of-home childcare until the exclusions criteria have been met and documentation has been provided as noted below:

Disease/ Agent	Mode of Transmission	Contagious Period	Report to Public Health	Exclusion	Documentation for Return

Exclusion criteria for children, students and staff who are contacts of (exposed to) individuals with excludable conditions[4]

Exclusion Criteria for Contacts (Exposures)	**Documentation for Return**
Whooping cough (Pertussis): Contacts do not need to be excluded. If close contacts to pertussis cases are identified who are coughing or have other symptoms of pertussis they are considered to be suspect cases. Contacts with cough illness are excluded as suspect cases: a) until after 5 days of appropriate antimicrobial therapy, or b) if no antibiotics are given, until 21 days after last contact with an infected person, or c) until after a negative pertussis test result, or d) until a health care provider clears the child or employee to return to school.	Medical note indicating the symptomatic contact is cleared to return to school or childcare or that student/employee has met one of the criteria at left. Parent report if returning to school 21or more days after last contact.

Exclusion criteria for children, students and staff who are contacts of (exposed to) individuals with excludable conditions[4]

Exclusion Criteria for Contacts (Exposures)	**Documentation for Return**
Unimmunized students without documentation of immunity or natural disease must be excluded if exposed to the following conditions as indicated below[5]:	
Measles: Exclude exposed students and household school aged contacts that have not been immunized against measles for 21 days after onset of rash in last case of measles in the affected school or community. Staff born in 1957 or later who cannot provide documentation of 1 dose of measles vaccine on or after their first birthday, or laboratory evidence of immunity should be excluded for 21 days after onset of rash in last case of measles in the affected school or community. Pregnant students and staff should not receive MMR immunization. DHEC is available to provide consultation on vaccinating children 6-11 months of age who are exposed to measles.	Individuals without previous measles immunization may be readmitted to school immediately after receiving measles-containing vaccine (if received within 72 W*n5<

Exclusion criteria for children, students and staff who are contacts of (exposed to) individuals with excludable conditions[4]

Exclusion Criteria for Contacts (Exposures)	**Docul6 1 398.93 539.5 Tm0 g0 G -0.096 Tc[o**

Children in childcare and students in school with the following conditions are not typically excluded, so long as they are healthy enough to participate in routine activities:

Canker Sores