



HEALTH SERVICES



Healthy Children Learn Better. . . Health Services Make It Happen!

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Communicable Skin Disease Information

Everyone is better protected when a child with a communicable disease is kept at home until medically treated. You may want to consult your physician if your child exhibits any of the symptoms listed below. If you have any questions regarding this information please contact the District School Nurse at the phone number listed above.

Impetigo: Lesions appear as small clusters of pimples and develop into honey colored crusts with little inflammation but much itching. The lesions frequently occur around the nostrils and mouth. Scratching the lesions causes them to spread to other parts of the body. Prompt treatment is important. Potential complications include rheumatic fever and nephritis. A child may return to school after medical treatment has started. Incubation period is four to ten days.

Scabies: Lesions occur between the fingers, in areas of wrists, elbows, belt line and other protected areas and cause intense itching at night. Scabies are caused by a parasitic mite, the female of which burrows through the skin leaving tiny linear burrows and lays eggs in the burrows. Transfer of parasites is by direct contact and by undergarments or bedclothes freshly contaminated by infected persons. Family members should also be treated. Bedclothes and underwear should be washed in hot water to kill the mite and prevent the spread of the disease. Exclude from school until medically treated. Incubation period is from several days to weeks before the itching is noticed.

Pediculosis (Head Lice): Tiny, flat-appearing insects that live in the hair. They grow in little round silver egg cases (nits) attached to the base of the hairs. The lice cause intense itching of the scalp. A rash may be present in the scalp or there may be swollen lymph nodes around the neck or under the arms in severe cases. It should be treated quickly since it spreads rapidly. All family members should be checked if a case is detected in a family, and treated medically if infected. Infected students will be excluded from school until adequately treated by shampoo prescribed for head lice and there are no nits. Incubation period: the eggs of lice hatch in a week, sexual maturity is reached in two weeks.

Conjunctivitis, Acute Bacterial (Pinkeye, sore eyes): Watery, inflamed eyes, swollen eyelids, blurry vision, mucous and pus discharge from the eyes. Spread by contact with discharge from eyes or upper respiratory tract of infected persons, through contaminated fingers, clothing or other articles. The infection is communicable during the course of active infection. Children should be excluded from school during the acute stage until medically treated. Incubation period from 24 to 72 hours.

Ringworm: Lesions consist of flat, slowly spreading, scaly ring-shaped spots on the skin. The outer margins may be reddish, raised, blistering or pustular and either dry and scaly or moist and crusted. Ringworm is a contagious skin infection caused by various fungi. It is spread directly from person to person by touching the lesions or indirectly by means of personal contact with contaminated hands, clothing, towels, or infected animals. Once treatment has begun, students may attend school if all lesions are covered with clothing or band-aids. Students not under treatment are not permitted in school.