



**WAYNE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
DISEASE CONTROL DIVISION  
Communicable Disease Reference Chart**

The following chart contains general recommendations involving **uncomplicated cases** of commonly encountered communicable diseases. The recommendations are for use by school administration to exclude and readmit children who are ill or are suspected of being ill. Contacts without symptoms need not be excluded. The "Exclusion Period" is a **minimum** amount of time and covers the Communicability Period. A child may need a longer convalescent period because of his/her physical disability. It should be noted that these diseases are primarily transmitted by direct contact with the infected individual through coughing, sneezing, direct transfer or unsanitary conditions. Books, papers and other school equipment usually do not act as vehicles for transmission of diseases. **\*NOTE PLEASE NOTIFY THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY AT 467-3325 OR 467-3326 IF YOU ARE AWARE OF AN UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE OF A DISEASE OR AN UNUSUAL NUMBER OF CASES OF ONE TYPE OF DISEASE ON A GIVEN DAY.**

DISEASE (ORGANISM)	INCUBATION PERIOD	PERIOD OF COMMUNICABILITY	ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN &/OR EXCLUSION PERIOD
ANIMAL / HUMAN BITES (Bacteria, Viruses & Fungi)	Variable. Rabies in man from an animal bite is 10 days to over 1 year; usually 2-8 weeks.	Variable depending on organism involved.	Seek medical attention immediately. Report animal bites to local animal control center.
CHICKEN POX & HERPES ZOSTER (Shingles) (Virus)	2-3 weeks; commonly 13-17 days.	As long as 5 but usually 1-2 days before onset of rash & not more than 1 week after first crop of lesions appear.	Exclude until 1 week after the eruption of first crop of lesions and all lesions have crusted.
COMMON COLD (Viruses)	12 to 72 hours; usually 48 hours.	Usually 24 hours before onset of symptoms to 5 days after onset.	Exclude until symptoms have disappeared, usually within 5 days from onset.
CONJUNCTIVITIS (Pink Eye) (Bacteria, Viruses)	Variable dependent upon infecting agent	During course of active infection.	Exclude until under medical care and drainage from eyes has cleared.
FIFTH DISEASE (Hungarian Measles; Erythema Infectiosum) (Virus)	About 4-15 days.	Unknown duration. Probably a few days before rash begins.	No exclusion providing rash is diagnosed as fifth's disease by physician.
HAND, FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE (Viruses)	3-5 days.	As long as organisms are present.	Exclude until lesions have begun to heal, the fever is gone & physician approves return.
HEPATITIS, TYPE A (Virus)	14-55 days; average is 28-30 days.	2 weeks before onset of symptoms to a maximum of 2 weeks after onset.	Exclude until 2 weeks after onset of symptoms or 10 days after jaundice onset if it occurs
HEPATITIS, TYPE B (Virus)	45-180 days; average is 60-90 days.	Several weeks before onset of symptoms until blood is no longer positive for evidence of virus.	Usually no exclusion recommended. Restriction from certain blood exposure activities should be considered individually.
HERPES SIMPLEX Types I & II (Viruses)	2-12 days.	Usually as long as lesions are present. Has been found in saliva for as long as 7 weeks after mouth lesions.	No exclusion recommended.
IMPETIGO (Bacteria)	Variable, indefinite; commonly 4-10 days.	While sores are draining.	Exclude until under treatment and lesions healing & no new lesions appear.