

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

The online version of this policy is official.
 Therefore, all printed versions of this document are unofficial copies.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND / OR ILLNESS MANAGEMENT

Clarksville-Montgomery County School System performs routine health screenings of all children in attendance. The school nurse along with school administration use exclusion criteria to determine whether or not a child who appears sick or complains of being sick will be permitted to remain in school. Nurses monitor students for any signs or symptoms of communicable disease. If communicable diseases or conditions are suspected, the school nurse makes every effort to notify parents of the affected child by phone. Contact information can be obtained in PowerSchool or on the Emergency Information Card. Refer to [INS-F004](#). In the event the school cannot locate a parent/guardian, or emergency contact, the principal or designee will make the necessary medical arrangements. In some instances, parents/guardians may be required to seek healthcare provider release prior to readmission of student to school. Refer to [HEA-F041](#). The Department of Health does not always recommend that a letter be sent to parents of the students in the same classroom regarding a particular communicable disease. If the school nurse is aware of or anticipates excessive concerns among parents of the community about a particular confirmed communicable disease with 10% of the students in the classroom, or if 2 or more students in the classroom are confirmed with the same communicable disease, a letter will be sent out ([HEA-F006](#) or [HEA-F007](#)- head lice).*

Some of the diseases and events listed on the following matrix are declared to be communicable and/or dangerous to the public and are to be reported to the local health department in accordance with the provision of the statutes and regulations governing the control of communicable diseases in Tennessee (T.C.A. §68 Rule 1200-14-01-.02).

CMCSS will not perform school-wide head lice checks. Classroom checks will be performed when there are two or more separate, confirmed cases of live head lice in the same classroom within a two week time frame. Head lice is listed on the following matrix, but is not considered a communicable disease.

For further treatment options, please refer to the Health Services Policy and Procedure Manual ([HEA-M001](#)).

For specific details, download the Reportable Diseases and Events Matrix (<http://health.state.tn.us/Downloads/ph-1600.pdf>).

Exclusion Criteria Guidelines

**An asterisk indicates that a class letter will be sent home should two or more students in the same classroom be diagnosed by a medical provider with the same illness / disease.*

Possible Diagnosis / Symptoms	Complaints or What Might Be Seen	Exclusion Criteria	Readmission Criteria	Report to Public Health
*Chickenpox	Blister-like spots surrounded by red halos on scalp,	Exclude	Exclude until all blisters have dried—this is	NO

Possible Diagnosis / Symptoms	Complaints or What Might Be Seen	Exclusion Criteria	Readmission Criteria	Report to Public Health
	face, body; Fever		usually at least 5 days after the rash first appears or medical release Immunocompromised individuals should not return until all blisters have crusted over.	
Cold Symptoms	Runny or Stuffy Nose Scratchy throat Coughing Sneezing Watery Eyes Fever	Fever Child looks very ill Difficulty breathing Rash not associated with injury Meets other exclusion criteria	Exclusion criteria resolved	NO
Cough	Dry or Wet cough Runny nose Sore Throat Throat irritation Hoarse voice, barking cough	Severe cough Rapid and/or difficulty breathing Wheezing if not already evaluated and treated. Cyanosis	Exclusion criteria resolved	NO
Diaper Rash	Redness Scaling Red bumps Sores Cracking of skin in diaper region	Oozing sores that leak body fluid outside the diaper	Exclusion criteria resolved	NO

Possible Diagnosis / Symptoms	Complaints or What Might Be Seen	Exclusion Criteria	Readmission Criteria	Report to Public Health
<p>*Diarrhea</p>	<p>Frequent loose or watery stools</p> <p>Abdominal cramps</p> <p>Possible fever</p> <p>Generally not feeling well</p> <p>Sometimes with vomiting</p>	<p>Stool cannot be contained</p> <p>Diarrhea is causing “accidents” for toilet-trained children.</p> <p>Stool frequency exceeds 2 or more.</p> <p>Blood/mucus in stool.</p> <p>Abnormal color of stool for child.</p> <p>No urine output for 8 hours.</p> <p>Jaundice</p> <p>Fever</p> <p>Looks or acts very ill</p>	<p>24 hours after diarrhea resolves</p> <p>Release from healthcare provider for all cases of bloody diarrhea and diarrhea caused by Shigella, Salmonella, or Giardia</p> <p>Exam on re-entry for temperature and hydration status.</p>	<p>*YES, Shigella, Salmonella <u>*See Matrix</u></p>
<p>Difficult or Noisy Breathing</p> <p><i>For severe breathing difficulty call 911</i></p>	<p>Gasping for breath</p> <p>Barking cough with possible chest discomfort</p> <p>Retractions</p> <p>Cyanosis of lips/nail beds</p> <p>Deep cough with rapid breathing</p> <p>Object stuck in airway</p>	<p>Fever</p> <p>Child meets other exclusion criteria</p> <p>Student looks very ill</p> <p>Student has difficulty breathing</p>	<p>Exclusion criteria resolved</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>Earache</p>	<p>Fever</p> <p>Pain or irritability</p> <p>Difficulty hearing</p> <p>Drainage</p>	<p>Unable to participate</p> <p>Fever</p>	<p>Exclusion criteria resolved</p>	<p>NO</p>

Possible Diagnosis / Symptoms	Complaints or What Might Be Seen	Exclusion Criteria	Readmission Criteria	Report to Public Health
	Swelling around ear			
Eye irritation, *Pinkeye	<p>Bacterial: pink color instead of whites of eyes and thick yellow/green discharge. May be irritated, swollen, or crusted in the morning.</p> <p>Viral: Pinkish/red, irritated swollen eyes; watery eyes; possible upper respiratory infection.</p> <p>Allergic/Chemical irritation: Red, tearing, itchy eyes; runny nose, sneezing; watery discharge.</p>	<p>For bacterial/viral conjunctivitis: Treatment for 24 hours with no obvious redness and drainage and/or healthcare release.</p> <p>For other forms: No unless meet other exclusion criteria.</p>	Exclusion criteria resolved	NO
Fever	Flushed, tired, irritable, decreased activity	<p>Temperature of 100.5 or greater.</p> <p>Oral- 100.5 Axillary- 101.5 Tympanic- 100.5 Forehead- 100.5</p>	Must be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication	NO
*Fifths Disease	<p>Cold symptoms are first signs</p> <p>Redness of the cheeks and body.</p> <p>Rash may reappear.</p> <p>Fever does not usually occur.</p> <p>*Once rash appears no longer contagious.*</p>	No	<p>Exclusion criteria resolved.</p> <p>*Pregnant women who have been exposed should consult their physician.</p>	NO

Possible Diagnosis / Symptoms	Complaints or What Might Be Seen	Exclusion Criteria	Readmission Criteria	Report to Public Health
*Flu	Rapid onset of fever, headache, sore throat, dry cough, chills, lack of energy, and muscle aches.	Exclude	Fever free for 24 hours	NO
*Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease	Rash with blisters in mouth, hands (palms & fingers) and feet (soles).	Exclusion criteria: Fever Open blisters on skin and mouth	Blisters have dried Fever free	NO
*Head Lice	Itching and scratching of scalp Presence of pinpoint-sized white eggs (nits) that will not flick off the hair shaft and live lice	Yes, live lice or nits within ¼" of scalp	After treatment or until exclusion criteria has resolved.	NO
Headache	Tired and irritable May occur with or without other symptoms	Student is unable to participate	Able to participate	NO
*Hepatitis A	Most children less than 6 years old have no symptoms; Fever Jaundice Nausea Loss of appetite	Exclude	One week after the onset of illness and medical release	YES
*Hepatitis B	Gradual onset of fever, fatigue, nausea, or vomiting, followed by jaundice. Young children may show few or no signs.	Exclude	Exclusion criteria resolved. *Children with known Hepatitis B should be excluded when there is a risk of	YES <i>*acute only*</i>

Possible Diagnosis / Symptoms	Complaints or What Might Be Seen	Exclusion Criteria	Readmission Criteria	Report to Public Health
			body fluid transmission to other students.*	
*Impetigo	Areas of crusted yellow, oozing sores. Often around mouth or nasal openings.	Exclude	May return after 24 hours of treatment with antibiotics and with medical release.	NO
Itching	Allergic or irritant reaction: Raised circular, mobile rash, reddening of skin. Dry skin or eczema: Dry areas on body. Worse on cheeks, front of elbows, and behind knees.	No unless it appears infected	Exclusion Criteria Resolved	NO
*Measles	Runny nose, watery eyes, fever, and dry cough. A blotchy red rash, which usually begins on the face, appears between the third and seventh day.	Exclude	Four days after beginning of rash and medical release.	YES
*Meningitis-BACTERIAL	Sudden onset of: Fever- higher with bacterial Headache Stiff neck, usually with fever	Exclude	Bacterial: Until effective treatment and Medical release.	YES- for bacterial only
*Meningitis-VIRAL	Sudden onset of: Fever Headache Stiff neck, usually with fever	Exclude	Viral: Fever free for 24 hours.	NO
*Meningococcal	Sudden onset of fever, intense	Exclude	Until effective treatment and	YES

Possible Diagnosis / Symptoms	Complaints or What Might Be Seen	Exclusion Criteria	Readmission Criteria	Report to Public Health
infections	headache, nausea and often vomiting, stiff neck, and, frequently, a reddish or purplish rash on the skin or mucous membranes.		medical release	
*Mononucleosis	Epstein-Barr virus causes high fever, a severe sore throat, swollen glands and tonsils, and weakness and fatigue.	Exclude	Medical release or 24 hours fever free. Some children with fatigue may not be physically able to return to school until symptoms subside.	NO
Mouth sores	Oral thrush: white patches on tongue and along cheeks. Herpes: fever blisters, cold sores Canker sores: painful ulcers	No, unless unable to participate	Able to participate	NO
*MRSA or other staph skin infections	Area of skin appears red, swollen or painful, warm to the touch, full of pus or other drainage	Exclusion criteria: Infected skin cannot be covered with a clean dry bandage. Wound drainage that cannot be covered and contained with bandage. Infected skin should be covered with a clean dry bandage.	Exclusion criteria resolved.	NO
*Mumps	Swelling over jaw in front of one or both ears Pain in cheeks made worse by chewing	Exclude	Nine days after the onset of swelling and medical release	YES
*Pinworm	Anal itching	No	Treatment recommended	NO
Rash	Many causes	Exclude for the following:	Able to participate in daily activities;	NO

Possible Diagnosis / Symptoms	Complaints or What Might Be Seen	Exclusion Criteria	Readmission Criteria	Report to Public Health
		Rash with behavior change or fever Has oozing/open wound Has bruising not associated with injury Has joint pain and rash Unable to participate Tender, red area of skin, especially if it is increasing in size or tenderness	On antibiotic medication at least 24 hours; Exclusion criteria are resolved	
*Ringworm	<p>Scalp: Slowly spreading, round, scaly balding patches on scalp with broken-off hairs.</p> <p>Body: Slowly spreading, flat, scaly, ring-shaped lesions on skin. Margins may be reddish & slightly raised.</p>	Exclude for <u>scalp only</u>	May return 24 hours after treatment and medical release.	NO
*Rubella	Cold-like symptoms. Swollen, tender glands at the back of the neck Fever Red or pink rash on face and chest	Exclude	Seven days after the onset of rash and/or medical release.	YES
*Scabies	Severely itchy red	Exclude	Exclude until the	NO

Possible Diagnosis / Symptoms	Complaints or What Might Be Seen	Exclusion Criteria	Readmission Criteria	Report to Public Health
	bumps on warm areas of body, especially between fingers or toes.		day after starting treatment and or/ medical release.	
*Scarlet Fever	A bacterium causes a fine, red rash that appears 1-3 days after onset of sore throat.	Exclude	Exclude until 24 hours after effective antibiotic treatment has begun and fever subsides or Medical release.	NO
Sore Throat	May see other symptoms such as runny nose, cough, and congestion. Strep throat- Redness with white patches on sides of throat, at back of tonsil area and back wall of throat. Large tonsils that may be touching.	Strep throat- Exclude Student meets other exclusion criteria	May return 24 hours after antibiotic treatment and medical release.	NO
Stomachache	Persistent pain in the abdomen Vomiting Diarrhea Cramping	Exclude for severe pain causing student to double over after injury, bloody or black stools, no urine output for 8 hours, yellow skin/eyes, fever, looks or acts very ill.	Pain resolves Able to participate Exclusion criteria resolved	NO
*Tuberculosis	Gradual onset, fatigue, anorexia, fever, failure to gain weight, and cough	Exclude	After antibiotic treatment has begun and with a medical release	YES
Vomiting	Viral illness Coughing strongly	Vomiting 2 or more times. Recent history of head injury Looks or acts very	Exclusion criteria resolved	NO

Possible Diagnosis / Symptoms	Complaints or What Might Be Seen	Exclusion Criteria	Readmission Criteria	Report to Public Health
		ill Vomit appears green/bloody		
*Whooping Cough	Low-grade fever, runny nose, and cough lasting about two weeks. Whooping sound when inhaling after a period of coughing.	Exclude	After 5 days of antibiotic treatment and medical release	YES

Implementing Procedures: Communicable Diseases [HEA-P001](#)

Associated Documents: Communicable Disease Notification [HEA-F006](#)
 Parent Notification (Illness/Condition) [HEA-F041](#)
 Emergency Information Card [INS-F004](#)
 Notice to Parents- Head Lice [HEA-F007](#)

Revision History:

Date:	Rev.	Description of Revision:
2/20/06		Initial Release
1/12/09	A	Addition of further guidelines for dismissal, an implementing procedure and associated documents
2/8/11	B	Change "principal or designee" to "administration"; Addition of "Contact information can be obtained in PowerSchool or on the Emergency Information Card" and reference to INS-F004; Addition of "The nurse may send a notice home to the parents of the students in the same classroom when a confirmed case of a communicable disease is known, as appropriate."; Addition of "(without the use of fever-reducing medications)" to third bullet in guidelines for dismissal; Addition of "suspected" under guidelines for dismissal. Add INS-F004 to Associated Documents.
4/9/12	C	Delete "Guidelines for Dismissal of children from school" and ADD "Exclusion Criteria Guidelines". Delete the nurse may send a notice home....and add "with 10% of the students in the classroom, the letter should be sent out (HEA-F006)."
6/24/13	D	Add criteria for Strep Throat, shingles, Ringworm of body, Scabies; delete Guidelines for Dismissal from School; Add Notice to Parents-Head Lice HEA-F007
6/26/14	E	Change wording in first paragraph to reflect INS-F004 form. Removed head lice reference since it is not communicable disease. Updated Exclusion Criteria Guidelines table. Changed Department to Human

		Resources. Department changed to Human Resources; Title of Policy changed. Added wording "Some of..." to beginning of second paragraph; added * to end of first paragraph for explanation before chart.
9/5/14	F	Changed wording to: "Must be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication" in Fever Readmission Criteria section of chart.
4/1/15		Reviewed, no changes
7/27/15	G	Added head lice disclaimer. Inserted hyperlink to HEA-M001.

***** End of Policy *****