



Department: Human Resources  
 Policy Number: HEA-A001  
 Effective Date: 2/20/06

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. Students that are not well enough to return to class after 30 minutes of observation by the school nurse must be picked up by the parent/guardian. Students that have signs of illness at school must be picked up within 60 minutes of parent/guardian contact. 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. The Montgomery County Health Department 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 a letter may be sent out ([HEA-F006](#)). *\*An asterisk indicates that a class letter may be sent home with Elementary School students should students in the same classroom be diagnosed by a medical provider with the same illness / disease.*

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). For specific details, refer to the TN Department of Health's Reportable Diseases page.

CMCSS will not perform school-wide head lice checks. Elementary School classroom checks may be performed when there are several, 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-G016](#)).

**Exclusion Criteria Guidelines**

Possible Diagnosis / Symptoms	Complaints or What Might Be Seen	Exclusion Criteria	Readmission Criteria	Report to Health Department
<b>*Chickenpox</b>	Blister-like spots surrounded by red	Exclude	Exclude until all blisters have dried—this is usually	NO

Possible Diagnosis / Symptoms	Complaints or What Might Be Seen	Exclusion Criteria	Readmission Criteria	Report to Health Department
	halos on scalp, face, body  Fever		at least 5 days after the rash first appears or medical release  Immunocompromised individuals should not return until all blisters have crusted over	
<b>Cold Symptoms</b>	Runny or Stuffy Nose  Scratchy throat  Coughing  Sneezing  Watery Eyes  Fever	Fever  Child looks very ill  Difficulty breathing   Meets other exclusion criteria	Exclusion criteria improved	NO
<b>Cough</b>	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 improved	NO
<b>COVID-19 / SARS-CoV-2</b>	Rapid onset of fever, headache, sore throat, dry cough, chills, lack of energy, and muscle aches, loss of taste/smell	Exclude	<b>24 hours fever free without medication and symptom improvement.</b>	NO

Possible Diagnosis / Symptoms	Complaints or What Might Be Seen	Exclusion Criteria	Readmission Criteria	Report to Health Department
<b>Diaper Rash</b>	Redness Scaling Red bumps Sores Cracking of skin in diaper region	Oozing sores that leak body fluid outside the diaper	Exclusion criteria resolved	NO
<b>Diarrhea</b>	Two or more episodes of loose or watery stools Abdominal cramps Possible fever Generally not feeling well Sometimes with vomiting	Stool cannot be contained Diarrhea is causing "accidents" for toilet-trained children Stool frequency exceeds 2 or more Abnormal color of stool for child Fever	24 hours after diarrhea resolves	*YES, Shigella, Salmonella <u>*See Matrix</u>
<b>Difficult or Noisy Breathing</b>  <i>For severe breathing difficulty call 911</i>	Gasping for breath Barking cough with possible chest discomfort Retractions Cyanosis of lips/nail beds Deep cough with rapid breathing Object stuck in airway	Fever Child meets other exclusion criteria Student looks very ill Student has difficulty breathing	Exclusion criteria resolved	NO
<b>Earache</b>	Fever Pain or irritability Difficulty hearing	Fever	Exclusion criteria resolved	NO

Possible Diagnosis / Symptoms	Complaints or What Might Be Seen	Exclusion Criteria	Readmission Criteria	Report to Health Department
	Drainage			
<b>Eye irritation, *Pinkeye</b>	<p><b>Bacterial:</b> pink color instead of whites of eyes and thick yellow/green discharge. May be irritated, swollen, or crusted in the morning.</p> <p><b>Viral:</b> Pinkish/red, irritated swollen eyes; watery eyes; possible upper respiratory infection.</p> <p><b>Allergic/Chemical Irritation:</b> Red, tearing, itchy eyes; runny nose, sneezing; watery discharge.</p>	<p><b>For bacterial/viral conjunctivitis:</b> Treatment for 24 hours with no obvious redness and drainage and/or healthcare release.</p> <p><b>For other forms:</b> No unless meet other exclusion criteria.</p>	Exclusion criteria resolved	NO
<b>Fever</b>	Flushed, tired, irritable, decreased activity	Temperature of 100 or greater  Oral- 100 Axillary- 99 Tympanic- 100 Forehead- 100	Must be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication	NO
<b>*Fifth Disease</b>	Cold symptoms are first signs  Redness of the cheeks and body  Rash may reappear  Fever does not usually occur  *Once rash appears no longer contagious*	No	Exclusion criteria resolved  *Pregnant women who have been exposed should consult their physician	NO

Possible Diagnosis / Symptoms	Complaints or What Might Be Seen	Exclusion Criteria	Readmission Criteria	Report to Health Department
<b>*Flu</b>	Rapid onset of fever, headache, sore throat, dry cough, chills, lack of energy, and muscle aches	Exclude	Fever free for 24 hours	NO
<b>*Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease</b>	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
<b>*Head Lice</b>	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  Nurse may excuse the student for current day and no more than one additional day	After treatment or until exclusion criteria has resolved	NO
<b>Headache</b>	Tired and irritable  May occur with or without other symptoms	Student is unable to participate	Able to participate	NO
<b>*Hepatitis A</b>	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

Possible Diagnosis / Symptoms	Complaints or What Might Be Seen	Exclusion Criteria	Readmission Criteria	Report to Health Department
<b>*Hepatitis B</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 body fluid transmission to other students.*	YES <i>*acute only*</i>
<b>*Impetigo</b>	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
<b>Itching</b>	<b><u>Allergic or irritant reaction:</u></b> Raised circular, mobile rash, reddening of skin.  <b><u>Dry skin or eczema:</u></b> Dry areas on body. Worse on cheeks, front of elbows, and behind knees.	No, unless it appears infected.	Exclusion criteria resolved	NO
<b>*Measles</b>	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
<b>*Meningitis- <u>BACTERIAL</u></b>	Sudden onset of: Fever- higher with bacterial  Headache  Stiff neck, usually with fever	Exclude	<b><u>Bacterial:</u></b> Until effective treatment and Medical release.	YES- for bacterial only

Possible Diagnosis / Symptoms	Complaints or What Might Be Seen	Exclusion Criteria	Readmission Criteria	Report to Health Department
<b>*Meningitis- <u>VIRAL</u></b>	Sudden onset of: Fever  Headache  Stiff neck, usually with fever	Exclude	<b><u>Viral</u></b> : Fever free for 24 hours.	NO
<b>*Meningococcal infections</b>	Sudden onset of fever, intense headache, nausea and often vomiting, stiff neck, and, frequently, a reddish or purplish rash on the skin or mucous membranes.	Exclude	Until effective treatment and medical release	YES
<b>*Mononucleosis</b>	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
<b>Mouth sores</b>	<b><u>Oral thrush</u></b> : white patches on tongue and along cheeks.  <b><u>Herpes</u></b> : fever blisters, cold sores  <b><u>Canker sores</u></b> : painful ulcers		Able to participate	NO
<b>*MRSA or other staph skin infections</b>	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

Possible Diagnosis / Symptoms	Complaints or What Might Be Seen	Exclusion Criteria	Readmission Criteria	Report to Health Department
<b>*Mumps</b>	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
<b>*Pinworm</b>	Anal itching	No	Treatment recommended	NO
<b>Rash</b>	Many causes	Exclude for the following: 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	Able to participate in daily activities; On antibiotic medication at least 24 hours; Exclusion criteria resolved	NO
<b>*Ringworm</b>	<b>Scalp:</b> Slowly spreading, round, scaly balding patches on scalp with broken-off hairs.  <b>Body:</b> Slowly spreading, flat, scaly, ring-shaped lesions on skin. Margins may be reddish & slightly raised.	Exclude for <b>scalp only</b>	May return 24 hours after treatment and medical release.	NO



Possible Diagnosis / Symptoms	Complaints or What Might Be Seen	Exclusion Criteria	Readmission Criteria	Report to Health Department
<b>*Rubella</b>	<p>Cold-like symptoms.</p> <p>Swollen, tender glands at the back of the neck</p> <p>Fever</p> <p>Red or pink rash on face and chest</p>	Exclude	Seven days after the onset of rash and/or medical release.	YES
<b>*Scabies</b>	Severely itchy red bumps on warm areas of body, especially between fingers or toes.	Exclude	Exclude 24 hours after starting treatment and or/ medical release.	NO
<b>*Scarlet Fever</b>	A bacterium causes a fine, red rash that appears 1-3 days after onset of sore throat.	Exclude	Exclude until at least 12 hours after antibiotic treatment has begun and fever subsides and Medical release.	NO
<b>Sore Throat</b>	<p>May see other symptoms such as runny nose, cough, and congestion.</p> <p><b>Strep throat-</b> Redness with white patches on sides of throat, at back of tonsil area and back wall of throat. Large tonsils that may be touching.</p>	<p>Strep throat- Exclude Student meets other exclusion criteria</p>	For Strep Throat - may return at least 12 hours after starting antibiotic treatment and medical release.	NO
<b>Stomachache</b>	<p>Persistent pain in the abdomen</p> <p>Vomiting</p> <p>Diarrhea</p> <p>Cramping</p>	Exclude for severe pain causing student to double over, or after injury, fever.	<p>Pain resolves</p> <p>Able to participate</p> <p>Exclusion criteria resolved</p>	NO

Possible Diagnosis / Symptoms	Complaints or What Might Be Seen	Exclusion Criteria	Readmission Criteria	Report to Health Department
<b>*Tuberculosis</b>	Gradual onset, fatigue, anorexia, fever, failure to gain weight, and cough	Exclude	After antibiotic treatment has begun and with a medical release	YES
<b>Vomiting</b>	Viral illness  Coughing strongly  Fever Stomachache Nausea	Vomiting 2 or more times.  Recent history of head injury  Looks or acts very ill  Vomit appears green/bloody	Exclude until 24 hours after last episode	NO
<b>*Whooping Cough</b>	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](#)

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.
4/16/18	H	Guidelines updated by district registered nurse.
5/28/19	I	Para. 1, added “Students that are not well enough to return to class after 30 minutes...”. Associated documents: removed HEA-F041, updated hyperlinks.
8/27/20	J	Added new language to incorporate guidance for COVID-19 from the Tennessee Department of Health
1/10/22	K	Removed some COVID-19 language and guidance based on updated TDOH guidance. Directed readers to the Return to School/Work Flowchart.
3/21/23	L	Incorporated changes throughout to reflect new guidelines for COVID-19. Updated guidance for nurses when students experience COVID-19 symptoms, but do not have a positive test.
8/14/23	M	Removed 5-day exclusion statement and reference to TN Department of Health return to school guidelines.

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