



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](#)).\* Parent notifications of confirmed cases of COVID-19 or exposures will be made in collaboration with the Montgomery County Health Department.

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. 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-M001](#)).

For specific details, refer to the TN Department of Health's Reportable Diseases page. [https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/reportable-diseases/2019\\_List\\_For\\_Healthcare\\_Providers.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/reportable-diseases/2019_List_For_Healthcare_Providers.pdf)

#### **Exclusion Criteria Guidelines**

*\*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.*

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 halos on scalp, face, body  Fever	Exclude	Exclude until all blisters have dried—this is usually at least 5 days after the rash first appears or medical release  Immunocompromised individuals should not return until all blisters have crusted over	NO
<b>Cold Symptoms</b>	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  Please see COVID-19 section for exclusion information	Exclusion criteria resolved  Please refer to COVID-19 information as many cold symptoms are similar to COVID-19 symptoms	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  Please see COVID-19 section for exclusion information	Exclusion criteria resolved  Please refer to COVID-19 (New onset cough is considered a high risk symptom)	NO

Possible Diagnosis / Symptoms	Complaints or What Might Be Seen	Exclusion Criteria	Readmission Criteria	Report to Health Department
<p><b>COVID-19 / SARS-CoV-2</b></p>	<p><b>High Risk Symptoms:</b>            New Cough            Difficulty Breathing            Loss of Taste or Smell            Fever of 100 degrees or greater</p> <p><b>Low Risk Symptoms:</b>            Congestion            Runny Nose            Nausea            Vomiting            Diarrhea            Sore Throat            Headache            Muscle Pain</p>	<p>1 or more symptom</p>	<p><b>For students with only one low risk symptom and no history of exposure to COVID-19</b> – may return after 24 hours if improvement in symptoms</p> <p><b>For Students with 2 or more low risk symptoms Or 1 high risk symptom and no history of exposure to COVID-19</b> – Refer to licensed healthcare provider, isolate per provider direction. <b>If PCR COVID-19 test is negative</b> may return after 24 hours if fever free without fever-reducing medications and symptoms are improving. <b>If no PCR COVID-19 test performed</b> may return after 24 hours if fever free without fever-reducing medication and improving symptoms with a medical providers note documenting an alternative diagnosis.</p> <p><b>For Students with 2 or more low risk symptoms Or 1 high risk symptom and no testing or medical evaluation with documented alternative diagnosis</b> - the student may return after 10 days if fever</p>	<p>YES</p>

Possible Diagnosis / Symptoms	Complaints or What Might Be Seen	Exclusion Criteria	Readmission Criteria	Report to Health Department
			<p>has resolved for &gt; 24 hours without fever-reducing medication and symptoms are improving.</p> <p><b>For Students who test positive for COVID-19</b> – May return after at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared if fever has resolved &gt; 24 hours without fever-reducing medication and improvement in symptoms</p> <p><b>*please note we can only accept PCR COVID-19 test results</b></p> <p><b>**please note that close contacts (anyone that has been within 6 feet for 10 or more minutes with a confirmed case) must quarantine at home for a minimum of 14 days. Household contacts may require a longer period of quarantine (this could be 24 days).</b></p> <p><b>***The Health Department is responsible for issuing quarantines and isolation periods as well as performing contact tracing.</b></p>	

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 Please see COVID-19 section for exclusion information	24 hours after diarrhea resolves Please refer to COVID-19 information as diarrhea is a low risk COVID-19 symptom	*YES, Shigella, Salmonella *See Matrix
<b>Difficult or Noisy Breathing</b>  <b>For severe breathing difficulty call 911</b>	Gasping for breath Barking cough with possible chest discomfort Retractions Cyanosis of lips/nail beds	Fever Child meets other exclusion criteria Student looks very ill Student has difficulty breathing	Exclusion criteria resolved Please refer to COVID-19 information as shortness of breath is a high risk COVID-19 symptom	NO

Possible Diagnosis / Symptoms	Complaints or What Might Be Seen	Exclusion Criteria	Readmission Criteria	Report to Health Department
	<p>Deep cough with rapid breathing</p> <p>Object stuck in airway</p>	<p>Please see COVID-19 section for exclusion information</p>		
<b>Earache</b>	<p>Fever</p> <p>Pain or irritability</p> <p>Difficulty hearing</p> <p>Drainage</p>	Fever	Exclusion criteria resolved	NO
<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>	<p>Flushed, tired, irritable, decreased activity</p>	<p>Temperature of 100 or greater</p> <p>Oral- 100            Axillary- 99            Tympanic- 100            Forehead- 100</p> <p>Please see COVID-19 section for exclusion information</p>	<p>Must be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication</p> <p>Please refer to COVID-19 information as fever is a high risk COVID-19 symptom</p>	NO

Possible Diagnosis / Symptoms	Complaints or What Might Be Seen	Exclusion Criteria	Readmission Criteria	Report to Health Department
<b>*Fifth Disease</b>	<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
<b>*Flu</b>	<p>Rapid onset of fever, headache, sore throat, dry cough, chills, lack of energy, and muscle aches</p>	<p>Exclude</p> <p>Please see COVID-19 section for exclusion information</p>	<p>Fever free for 24 hours</p> <p>Please refer to COVID-19 information as many flu symptoms are similar to COVID-19 symptoms</p>	NO
<b>*Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease</b>	<p>Rash with blisters in mouth, hands (palms &amp; fingers) and feet (soles)</p>	<p>Exclusion criteria: Fever</p> <p>Open blisters on skin and mouth</p>	<p>Blisters have dried</p> <p>Fever free</p>	NO
<b>*Head Lice</b>	<p>Itching and scratching of scalp</p> <p>Presence of pinpoint-sized white eggs (nits) that will not flick off the hair shaft and live lice</p>	<p>Yes, live lice or nits within ¼" of scalp</p> <p>Nurse may excuse the student for current day and no more than one additional day</p>	<p>After treatment or until exclusion criteria has resolved</p>	NO
<b>Headache</b>	<p>Tired and irritable</p> <p>May occur with or without other symptoms</p>	<p>Student is unable to participate</p> <p>Please see COVID-19 section for exclusion information</p>	<p>Able to participate</p> <p>Please refer to COVID-19 information as headache is a low risk COVID-19 symptom</p>	NO
<b>*Hepatitis A</b>	<p>Most children less than 6 years old</p>	Exclude	<p>One week after the onset of illness and medical release</p>	YES

Possible Diagnosis / Symptoms	Complaints or What Might Be Seen	Exclusion Criteria	Readmission Criteria	Report to Health Department
	have no symptoms  Fever  Jaundice  Nausea  Loss of appetite			
<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>Allergic or irritant reaction:</b> Raised circular, mobile rash, reddening of skin.  <b>Dry skin or eczema:</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



Possible Diagnosis / Symptoms	Complaints or What Might Be Seen	Exclusion Criteria	Readmission Criteria	Report to Health Department
<b>*Meningitis-BACTERIAL</b>	Sudden onset of: Fever- higher with bacterial  Headache  Stiff neck, usually with fever	Exclude	<b>Bacterial:</b> Until effective treatment and Medical release.	YES- for bacterial only
<b>*Meningitis-VIRAL</b>	Sudden onset of: Fever  Headache  Stiff neck, usually with fever	Exclude	<b>Viral:</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>Oral thrush:</b> white patches on tongue and along cheeks.  <b>Herpes:</b> fever blisters, cold sores  <b>Canker sores:</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	Exclusion criteria resolved	NO

Possible Diagnosis / Symptoms	Complaints or What Might Be Seen	Exclusion Criteria	Readmission Criteria	Report to Health Department
		drainage that cannot be covered and contained with bandage. Infected skin should be covered with a clean dry bandage.		
<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,	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
	scaly, ring-shaped lesions on skin. Margins may be reddish & slightly raised.			
<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 24 hours after effective antibiotic treatment has begun and fever subsides or 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> <p>Please see COVID-19 section for exclusion information</p>	<p>For Strep Throat - may return 24 hours after antibiotic treatment and medical release.</p> <p>Please refer to COVID-19 information as sore throat is a low risk COVID-19 symptom</p>	NO
<b>Stomachache</b>	<p>Persistent pain in the abdomen</p> <p>Vomiting</p>	Exclude for severe pain causing student to double	<p>Pain resolves</p> <p>Able to participate</p>	NO

Possible Diagnosis / Symptoms	Complaints or What Might Be Seen	Exclusion Criteria	Readmission Criteria	Report to Health Department
	Diarrhea  Cramping	over after injury, fever,  Please see COVID-19 section for exclusion information	Exclusion criteria resolved  Please refer to COVID-19 information as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea are low risk COVID-19 symptoms	
<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  Please see COVID-19 section for exclusion information	Exclude until 24 hours after last episode  Please refer to COVID-19 information as vomiting is a low risk COVID-19 symptom	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:**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Rev.</b>	<b>Description of Revision:</b>
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

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