



COMMUNICABLE DISEASES PROCEDURE (HEA-P001)

Clarksville-Montgomery County School System

1.0 SCOPE:

- 1.1 This procedure outlines the process taken to inform parents/guardians their child has signs or symptoms for communicable disease.

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

2.0 RESPONSIBILITY:

- 2.1 School Nurse
- 2.2 Principals
- 2.3 District Registered Nurse
- 2.4 Safety and Health Manager

3.0 APPROVAL AUTHORITY:

- 3.1 Safety and Health Director

4.0 DEFINITIONS:

- 4.1 Communicable Disease / List of Communicable Diseases and / or Illness Management:
As outlined below in List of Communicable Diseases and / or Illness Management.

5.0 PROCEDURE:

- 5.1 Sick child requests to visit school nurse or teacher or other staff refers child to nurse (refer to [HEA-F037](#)).
- 5.2 School nurse uses following criteria to screen child for exclusion from school (refer to [HEA-A001](#)):



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Possible Diagnosis / Symptoms	Complaints or What Might Be Seen	Exclusion Criteria	Readmission Criteria	Report to Health Department
*Chickenpox	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
Cold Symptoms	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
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 improved	NO
COVID-19 / SARS-CoV-2	Rapid onset of fever, headache, sore throat, dry cough, chills, lack of energy, and muscle aches, loss of taste/smell	Exclude	24 hours fever free without medication and symptom improvement.	NO



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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
Diarrhea	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>
Difficult or Noisy Breathing <i>For severe breathing</i>	Gasping for breath Barking cough with possible chest discomfort Retractions	Fever Child meets other exclusion criteria Student looks very ill	Exclusion criteria resolved	NO



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difficulty call 911	Cyanosis of lips/nail beds Deep cough with rapid breathing Object stuck in airway	Student has difficulty breathing		
Earache	Fever Pain or irritability Difficulty hearing Drainage	Fever	Exclusion criteria resolved	NO
Eye irritation, *Pinkeye	<u>Bacterial:</u> pink color instead of whites of eyes and thick yellow/green discharge. May be irritated, swollen, or crusted in the morning. <u>Viral:</u> Pinkish/red, irritated swollen eyes; watery eyes; possible upper respiratory infection. <u>Allergic/Chemical irritation:</u> Red, tearing, itchy eyes; runny nose, sneezing; watery discharge.	<u>For bacterial/viral conjunctivitis:</u> Treatment for 24 hours with no obvious redness and drainage and/or healthcare release. <u>For other forms:</u> No unless meet other exclusion criteria.	Exclusion criteria resolved	NO
Fever	Flushed, tired, irritable, decreased activity	Temperature of 100 or greater Oral- 100	Must be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication	NO



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		Axillary- 99 Tympanic- 100 Forehead- 100		
*Fifth Disease	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
*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 Nurse may excuse the student for current day and no more than one additional day	After treatment or until exclusion criteria has resolved	NO



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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 body fluid transmission to other students.*	YES <i>*acute only*</i>
*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	<u>Allergic or irritant reaction:</u> Raised circular, mobile rash, reddening of skin. <u>Dry skin or eczema:</u> Dry areas on body. Worse on cheeks,	No, unless it appears infected.	Exclusion criteria resolved	NO



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	front of elbows, and behind knees.			
*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-<u>BACTERIAL</u>	Sudden onset of: Fever- higher with bacterial Headache Stiff neck, usually with fever	Exclude	<u>Bacterial:</u> Until effective treatment and Medical release.	YES- for bacterial only
*Meningitis-<u>VIRAL</u>	Sudden onset of: Fever Headache Stiff neck, usually with fever	Exclude	<u>Viral:</u> Fever free for 24 hours.	NO
*Meningococcal infections	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
*Mononucleosis	Epstein-Barr virus causes high fever, a severe sore	Exclude	Medical release or 24 hours fever free. Some children with fatigue may not be	NO



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	throat, swollen glands and tonsils, and weakness and fatigue.		physically able to return to school until symptoms subside.	
Mouth sores	<p>Oral thrush: white patches on tongue and along cheeks.</p> <p>Herpes: fever blisters, cold sores</p> <p>Canker sores: painful ulcers</p>		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	<p>Swelling over jaw in front of one or both ears</p> <p>Pain in cheeks made worse by chewing</p>	Exclude	Nine days after the onset of swelling and medical release	YES
*Pinworm	Anal itching	No	Treatment recommended	NO
Rash	Many causes	<p>Exclude for the following: Rash with behavior change or fever</p> <p>Has oozing/open wound</p>	<p>Able to participate in daily activities; On antibiotic medication at least 24 hours; Exclusion criteria resolved</p>	NO



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		<p>Has bruising not associated with injury</p> <p>Has joint pain and rash</p> <p>Unable to participate</p> <p>Tender, red area of skin, especially if it is increasing in size or tenderness</p>		
*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	<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
*Scabies	Severely itchy red bumps on warm areas of body,	Exclude	Exclude 24 hours after starting	NO



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	especially between fingers or toes.		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. <u>Strep throat-</u> 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	For Strep Throat - may return at least 12 hours after starting antibiotic treatment and medical release.	NO
Stomachache	Persistent pain in the abdomen Vomiting Diarrhea Cramping	Exclude for severe pain causing student to double over, or after injury, fever.	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.	Exclude until 24 hours after last episode	NO



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	Fever Stomachache Nausea	Recent history of head injury Looks or acts very 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

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 <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/reportable-diseases/Provider-list-2021.pdf>. School Nurse makes every effort to contact parent/guardian by phone. Contact information can be obtained in PowerSchool or on the Emergency Information Card (refer to [INS-F004](#)).

- 5.3 If no parent/guardian is available, and the school nurse determines if the child is suspected of having a state reportable communicable disease, the child should be isolated. If not, the child may be allowed to return to class.
- 5.4 If no parent/guardian contact available, a letter may be sent home with the student to inform the parent/guardian of school nurse findings.
- 5.5 Parents are advised to seek healthcare advice as pertains to the condition or disease.
- 5.7 Parents may need to supply a healthcare provider or physician statement in certain instances in order to ensure the disease or condition is no longer communicable.
- 5.8 In accordance with the Tennessee Department of Health's guidance, if the school nurse is aware of a particular confirmed communicable disease with 10% of the students in the classroom, or if two or more students in the same classroom are confirmed with the same



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reportable communicable illness, the letter regarding communicable disease should be sent out (refer to [HEA-F006](#)).

6.0 ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS:

- 6.1 Communicable Diseases Administrative Policy ([HEA-A001](#))
- 6.2 Communicable Disease Notification ([HEA-F006](#))
- 6.3 Emergency Information Card ([INS-F004](#))
- 6.4 Clinic Referral ([HEA-F037](#))
- 6.5 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <http://www.cdc.gov/>
- 6.6 Notice to Parents- Head Lice ([HEA-F007](#))

7.0 RECORDS RETENTION TABLE:

<u>Identification</u>	<u>Storage</u>	<u>Retention</u>	<u>Disposition</u>	<u>Protection</u>
Healthcare provider/physician statement	School nurse office	One year plus one fiscal year	Shred	Secured building
Clinic Referral	School Nurse office	One year plus one fiscal year	Shred	Secured office

8.0 REVISION HISTORY:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Rev.</u>	<u>Description of Revision:</u>
3/28/07		Initial Release
1/29/09	A	Update Responsibility and Approval, expand guidelines for dismissal, remove second group of bullets under guidelines, add 5.8 add 6.2, 6.3, 6.4 & 6.6, update flowchart
3/1/10	B	Add form number to 5.1, add contact information to 5.3, add "as appropriate" to 5.8, add emergency card to Associated documents, add clinical referral to Record Retention Table
2/8/11	C	Addition of "(without the use of fever-reducing medications)" to third bullet of 5.2 Guidelines for Dismissal; Addition of "suspected" under guidelines for dismissal.
3/27/12	D	Delete "Guidelines for Dismissal of children from school" and ADD "Exclusion Criteria Guidelines". Delete 5.8 and add, "If the school nurse is aware..."



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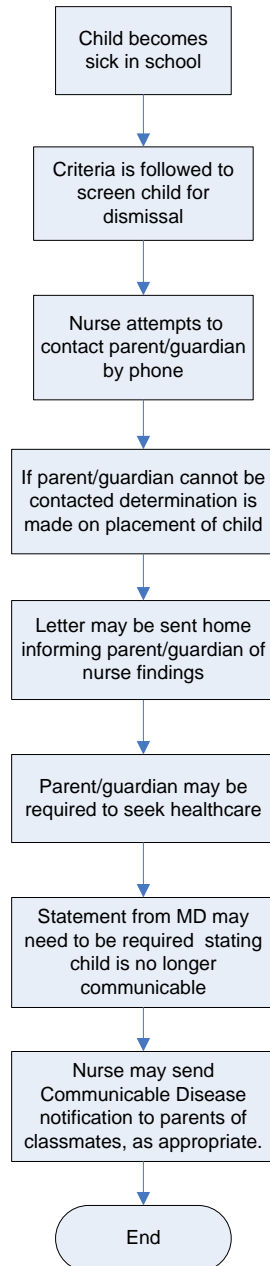
9/13/12	E	Update Responsibility changing 2.3 School Nurse Supervisor to District Registered Nurse and add 2.4 School Safety and Health Manager. Change Exclusion header in Exclusion Guidelines table to Description. Change Ringworm caused by fungus to Ringworm of the scalp and in the description column change skin to scalp.
6/20/14	F	Removed Guidelines for Dismissal of Student from School from 4.1; Removed Exclusion Guidelines table and replaced with List of Communicable Diseases and/or Illness Management table; added form reference to 5.4; added statement regarding two or more students in the same classroom confirmed with same communicable illness to 5.8; removed Guidelines for Dismissal from School in Associated Documents section.
7/28/15	G	Updated list of diseases/ treatment.
12/13/16		Updated department name.
11/7/18	H	Updated fever guidelines.
6/17/21	I	Updated table. Added references to the Tennessee Department of Health.
2/28/22	J	Updated table.
8/10/23	K	Update strep return to school time frame and added ISO document reference.

9.0 FLOWCHART:

9.1 A flowchart detailing this process can be found below.

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*** End of Procedure ***