



**COMMUNICABLE DISEASES PROCEDURE
(HEA-P001)**

Clarksville-Montgomery County School System

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

1.0 SCOPE:

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

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 | Five day exclusion from symptom onset/test date and 24 hours fever free without medication and | NO |



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| | | | <p align="center"> symptom improvement. CMCSS follows the TN Department of Health's guidance regarding return to school. Please refer to the CMCSS Return to School/Work Flowchart for the most updated guidance on student and staff exclusions. This applies to all students and staff that are positive for COVID-19, are household contacts or close contacts. </p> <p align="center"> https://employees.cmcss.net/misc/ViewISO?filename=SAF-W001.pdf </p> | |
| 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 |



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| 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 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 Please see COVID-19 section for exclusion information | Exclusion criteria resolved | NO |
| Earache | Fever Pain or irritability Difficulty hearing Drainage | Fever | Exclusion criteria resolved | NO |



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| 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 | 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 |
| *Fifth Disease | Cold symptoms are first signs Redness of the cheeks and body Rash may reappear Fever does not usually occur | No | Exclusion criteria resolved *Pregnant women who have been exposed should consult their physician | NO |



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| | *Once rash appears no longer contagious* | | | |
| *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 |
| 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 | Exclude | One week after the onset of illness and medical release | YES |



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| | Loss of appetite | | | |
| *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, 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- <u>BACTERIAL</u> | Sudden onset of: Fever- higher with bacterial Headache | Exclude | <u>Bacterial:</u> Until effective treatment and Medical release. | YES- for bacterial only |



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| | Stiff neck, usually with fever | | | |
| *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 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 | <u>Oral thrush</u> : white patches on tongue and along cheeks. <u>Herpes</u> : fever blisters, cold sores <u>Canker sores</u> : painful ulcers | | Able to participate | NO |
| *MRSA or other staph skin infections | Area of skin appears red, swollen or painful, warm to the touch, | Exclusion criteria: Infected skin cannot be covered with a clean dry bandage. Wound | Exclusion criteria resolved | NO |



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| | full of pus or other drainage. | drainage that cannot be covered and contained with bandage. Infected skin should be covered with a clean dry bandage. | | |
| *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: 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 |
| *Ringworm | Scalp: Slowly spreading, round, scaly balding | Exclude for scalp only | May return 24 hours after treatment and medical release. | NO |



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| | <p>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> | | | |
| *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, especially between fingers or toes. | Exclude | Exclude 24 hours after starting treatment and or/ medical release. | NO |
| *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 | <p>May see other symptoms such as runny nose, cough, and congestion.</p> <p>Strep throat- Redness with white patches on</p> | <p>Strep throat- Exclude Student meets other exclusion criteria</p> | For Strep Throat - may return 24 hours after antibiotic treatment and medical release. | NO |



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| | sides of throat, at back of tonsil area and back wall of throat. Large tonsils that may be touching. | | | |
| 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 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 |
| *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 |



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



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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...” |
| 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. |



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| | | |
|----------|---|--|
| | | 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. |

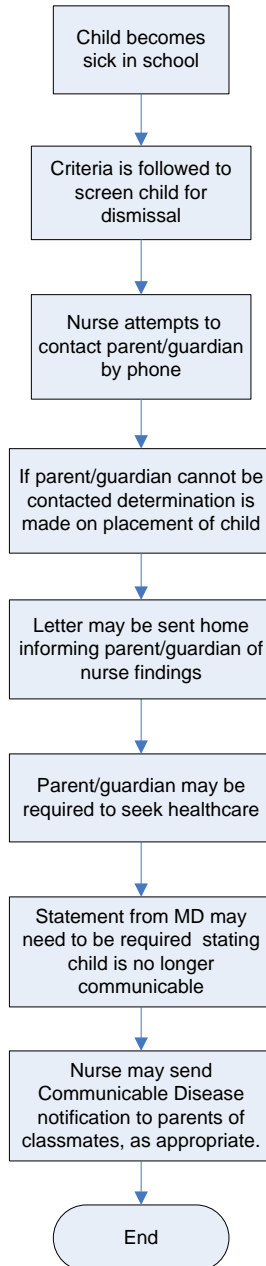
9.0 FLOWCHART:

9.1 A flowchart detailing this process can be found below.



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***** End of Procedure *****