



## Perth District Health Unit

653 West Gore Street  
Stratford, Ontario N5A 1L4  
(519) 271-7600 Fax (519) 271-2195

### COMMUNICABLE DISEASE GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOLS & DAY CARES

Under the Health Protection and Promotion Act, the Medical Officer of Health has the authority to order isolation for a person who has or may have a communicable disease. Students with certain diseases must be excluded from school or day care, unless there is specific permission from the Medical Officer of Health to do otherwise. The family physician does not have authority to permit early return. The exclusion rules for the most common of these communicable diseases are listed below.

Disease	Exclusion Period
Chickenpox .....	until all lesions are crusted (usually about 5 days)
Impetigo .....	24 hours from start of antibiotic treatment
Measles.....	4 days from onset of rash
Mumps.....	9 days from onset of swelling
Pediculosis (head lice).....	until treated and <u>all</u> nits are removed
Pertussis (whooping cough) .....	21 days from onset of paroxysmal cough, <u>or</u> 5 days after start of Erythromycin treatment
Pink Eye (conjunctivitis) with discharge/pus.....	24 hours from start of treatment
Rash with fever.....	until rash and fever are gone, <u>or</u> doctor determines it is non-communicable
Ringworm.....	until treatment is started (exclude from gym, pools until cleared)
Rubella (German measles) .....	7 days from onset of rash
Scabies.....	until the day after treatment
Scarlet fever/scarlatina, strep throat .	24 hours from start of treatment
Vomiting and diarrhea.....	until recovered (unless known to be caused by a non-communicable condition)
Colds .....	no exclusion unless child is not feeling well enough to participate
Fifth disease.....	comfortably in school activities
Hand, foot & mouth disease .....	

For more information about these or other diseases:

- < call Health Line at 271-7600 ext 267
- < Listowel area residents call (toll free) 1-877-271-7348

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Medical Officer of Health

RP/nc  
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