

## General Exclusion Guidelines<sup>4, 10</sup>

School attendance is important for students. The decision to exclude students who have an infectious disease from school should be made in conjunction with the school nurse, the state or local public health agency, health care professionals, and/or parents/guardians. This guideline document, *Infectious Disease Management: Guidelines for Schools*, contains particular exclusion recommendations for numerous individual diseases and conditions. Refer to the [disease fact sheet](#) pertaining to the specific disease.

Generally, if any of the following conditions apply, exclusion from school should be considered:

- The student does not feel well enough to participate comfortably in usual activities.
- The student requires more care than school personnel are able to provide.
- The student has:
  - ✓ a high fever (above 101° F orally)
  - ✓ behavior changes
  - ✓ persistent crying
  - ✓ difficulty breathing
  - ✓ significant lack of energy
  - ✓ uncontrolled coughing
  - ✓ rash , if rapid spread and/or associated with fever or behavioral changes
  - ✓ diarrhea and/or blood or mucus in the stools not explained by dietary change, medication, or hard stools
  - ✓ vomiting, more than 2 times in the past 24 hours unless it is determined the cause is non-communicable
  - ✓ abdominal pain, persistent (more than 2 hours) or intermittent associated with fever, dehydration or signs/symptoms of illness
  - ✓ other signs suggesting a severe illness
  - ✓ a potentially contagious illness and exclusion is recommended by a health care provider, the state or local public health agency, or these guidelines.

Students should be allowed to return to school once the exclusion period is met, or a health care provider clears the student.

In cases where unvaccinated students are exposed to a vaccine preventable disease (such as measles, mumps, rubella, varicella, or pertussis), the state or local public health agency should be consulted in order to determine if exclusion of unvaccinated students is necessary.

### School Staff Exclusion Considerations

Occasionally school personnel become ill with an infectious disease. When this occurs, the affected staff member should consult with the school nurse, school administration, the state or local public health agency, and/or health care provider to determine if they can work. If ill with diarrhea or vomiting, school personnel should not work until the illness is over. This is especially important for staff that work in the cafeteria or handle food in any manner. Pregnant women or potentially susceptible staff may need to confer with their health care provider and public health officials when specific infectious diseases are of local concern to determine if it is advisable to work or if exclusion may be necessary.