

Communicable Disease

POLICY:

In the event that the school nurse either suspects a student may have a communicable disease or if the school has received notification that a student has a communicable disease, including H.I.V. or Hepatitis C, the school nurse will follow the recommendations outlined in the Massachusetts's Department of Public Health's Comprehensive School Health Manual. The nurse shall follow the recommendations in the areas of:

1. Diagnosis
2. Treatment
3. School attendance guidelines
4. Reporting requirements
5. Notification guidelines – state, local, and parent
6. Stop-Spread guidelines

In order to prevent the spread of communicable disease(s) and ensure a rapid recovery with a minimum of after effects, the student(s) cannot return to school until it is felt that the student will not infect others with the disease. Below are listed the most common contagious diseases and their periods of exclusion. The list is not all-inclusive and the school nurse must use good judgment and best practice, if a communicable disease is suspected. She/he should consult with the MA Department of Public Health or the program physician in these cases.

Upon returning to school, the student diagnosed with the communicable disease must report to the school nurse with documentation from a healthcare provider and will be excluded from school until the following treatments or periods of time have elapsed:

Bacterial Conjunctivitis	May return to school after medical treatment has been provided for 24 hours
Chicken Pox	May return to school when lesions are dry and crusted
German measles	May return to school 7 days after the onset of rash
Measles	May return to school 4 days after first appearance of rash
Impetigo	May return to school after all open sores have healed or are small enough that a band-aid will cover the area. May return to school if on medication for 24 hours
Strep Throat	May return after medical treatment has been provided for 24 hours and student is fever free without the use of antipyretics

Ringworm	May return to school the day following initiation of anti-fungal treatment, as detailed by an MD note. Lesions should be covered
HIB Disease	May return after 4 days of treatment with Rifampin or are no longer ill
Mumps	May return 9 days after the onset of swelling or when the swelling has subsided
Whooping Cough	May return 3 weeks after the onset of cough or 5 days after antibiotics start
Rash	At the nurse's discretion; any student with an undiagnosed rash may be excluded from school. The student must have a physician's note to return to school
Molluscum Dermatits	Does not warrant exclusion from school; however students with known diagnosis should avoid swimming in common pools until treatment has been initiated
Coronavirus Disease	See addendum on page 8 for full requirements

ADDENDUM: Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

Exclusion from school and subsequent return should be based on current guidance from local Boards of Health. Each individual city/town Board of Health may have different requirements and be more or less restrictive than the guidance listed below. All students and staff must follow criteria detailed by their school district and Board of Health in the city/town in which they reside.

Lexington Board of Health Guidance as of July 17, 2020:

Symptoms of COVID-19	Exposure to COVID-19
<i>Anyone who has displayed symptoms of COVID-19</i>	<i>Anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19</i>
<p><u>Criteria for Return to School:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard LABBB illness protocol applies • Active COVID-19 test performed with negative result & symptom-free for 24 hours • Note from individual’s primary care physician indicating that symptoms and situation are not indicative of COVID-19 	<p><u>Criteria for Return to School:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 days since last contact with a person who has COVID-19 • Symptom-free and fever-free • Clearance from Board of Health in city/town that individual resides in
Symptomatic Confirmed COVID-19	Asymptomatic Confirmed COVID-19
<i>Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and exhibited symptoms, or a physician states confirmed or probable COVID-19 based on symptom presentation</i>	<i>Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 but did not exhibit symptoms</i>
<p><u>Criteria for Return to School:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 days (at a minimum) in isolation from the 1st day of symptom presentation • Fever-free for 72 hours without the use of antipyretic (fever-reducing) medications • Respiratory symptoms have significantly improved • Clearance from Board of Health in city/town that individual resides in 	<p><u>Criteria for Return to School:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No symptoms for 10 days following positive COVID-19 test • Fever-free for 72 hours without the use of antipyretic (fever-reducing) medications • Clearance from Board of Health in city/town that individual resides in

NOTE: In the context of the guidelines, *close contact* refers to:

- Proximity within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes, while the case was symptomatic or within 48 hours before symptom onset
- Direct physical contact with infectious secretions of someone who has COVID-19 (i.e. being sneezed or coughed on) while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment