



Communicable Disease Chart for Child Care Providers Bureau of Child Care

Notify the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health Department) of any case of a reportable condition as indicated below (in Notify NYC Health Department column) of three or more cases of any disease or condition, or any unusual disease occurrence. Click on the disease name in the left-hand column for more information, or to browse full list visit nyc.gov/health and select "Health Topics A-Z." For confirmed cases of vaccine-preventable infections, check immunization records of all children for compliance. Children who are not immunized may need to be excluded. Follow the recommendations of the NYC Health Department.

Disease	Incubation	Signs/Symptoms	How Disease is Transmitted	When Communicable	Restriction	Notify NYC Health Department	Facility's Obligation
Allergies	Not applicable (N/A)	Rashes, swelling, congested or running nose, wheezing, vomiting and diarrhea	N/A, as allergies are an abnormal sensitivity to certain substances and are not transmitted from person to person.	Never	Follow physician's instructions.	No, unless severe allergic reaction resulted in use of an epinephrine auto-injector	Obtain information from parent/guardian about child's allergies prior to admission. Request physician's recommendation on what child should avoid and how to handle an allergic reaction.
Amebiasis	2 to 4 weeks	Mild form of amebiasis includes nausea, loose stools, stomach pain and cramping	Fecal-oral route, through contaminated food, water or hands.	Until parasite is no longer in stool, normally weeks but can be communicable from months to years.	Exclude child or staff until diarrhea is gone and until three stool tests are negative. Child Care staff (i.e., food handlers) must receive approval from NYC Health Department prior to returning to child care.	Yes	Implement proper hand washing techniques, especially wash hands between diaper changes and before preparing food. Consult with Bureau of Child Care - notification of parents/guardians may be necessary.
Campylobacteriosis	1 to 10 days, but can be longer	Diarrhea (may be bloody), fever, vomiting, abdominal cramping and malaise	Contact with infected birds, farm animals or pets, contaminated water, unpasteurized milk, contaminated food (especially undercooked poultry). Less commonly spread by person-to-person via fecal-oral transmission	As long as bacteria are present in the stool.	Exclude child until diarrhea is gone. Exclude staff who are involved in food handling or diapering until diarrhea is gone and until two stool tests are negative.	Yes	Implement proper hand washing techniques, especially wash hands between diaper changes and before preparing food. Consult with Bureau of Child Care - notification of parents/guardians may be necessary.
Chickenpox (Varicella) (caused by Varicella-Zoster virus)	10 to 21 days (could be contagious beginning day 8)	Mild fever, itching small red fluid filled bumps start on stomach or back that spread to face	Spread through the air by sneezing and coughing on others, contact with mucus or saliva-contaminated articles. Direct contact with rash.	2 days before rash begins until last of rash is crusted and healing.	Exclude child until all lesions are scabbed over and no new spots have appeared for 24 hours.	Yes	Notify parents/guardians via letter provided by NYC Health Department. Sanitize all articles. NYC Health Department will share guidance to exclude students and staff in the classroom of the case if they do not have varicella vaccine unless they get vaccinated within 3 days of initial exposure. Required immunization for children and staff.



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Colds (Upper Respiratory Infections)	24 to 72 hours	Sore throat, stuffy nose, runny nose, sneezing	Sneezing and coughing on others, contact with mucus-contaminated articles.	Usually 24 hours before symptoms until 3 days after start of symptoms.	Exclude child with fever of 101° F or above.	No	Have children and staff wash hands often. Observe child for worsening symptoms (e.g., trouble breathing, high fevers, altered mental status) and if concerns, notify parents/guardians/physicians. Use tissues when coughing, sneezing or blowing nose; discard and wash hands afterwards.
COVID-19	2 to 14 days	Fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle aches, body aches, headache, new loss of taste, new loss of smell, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea	Spread through the air when someone who is infected breathes out droplets and very small particles that contain the virus, especially when sneezing or coughing on others, singing, etc.	2 days prior to symptom onset (or positive test result if asymptomatic), through 10 days after symptoms started (or test date if asymptomatic)	Exclude child or staff until: - At least 10 days since symptoms started (or test date if no symptoms), and - No fever in last 24 hours, without use of fever-reducing drugs (such as Tylenol, Advil, Motrin, Dayquil, Nyquil, etc.), and - Overall illness has improved	Yes	Notify parents/guardians and staff via letter provided by NYC Health Department with instructions on isolation (cases) and quarantine (contacts).
Coxsackie (Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease) (caused by coxsackie A 16 virus)	3 to 5 days	Fever, runny nose, sore throat. Blister-like rash may be on mouth, gums, tongue, feet and hands.	Direct contact with nose and throat discharges, blisters and feces.	From the start of first symptom until blister-like skin lesions are healed.	Exclude child with blisters in mouth who drool or have weeping lesions, or until fever is gone.	Yes, if three or more cases	Staff and children must use good handwashing procedures and be careful of respiratory secretions. Wash and disinfect play surfaces and any toys that may be placed in children's mouth. Notify parents/guardians.
Cryptosporidiosis	1 to 12 days	Watery diarrhea, abdominal cramping, low grade fever, vomiting, loss of appetite	Fecal-oral route, through contaminated food, water or hands.	Until parasite no longer in stool, normally 1 to 2 weeks but can persist for months.	Exclude child until diarrhea is gone and until three stool tests are negative. Child care staff (i.e., food handlers) must receive approval from NYC Health Department prior to returning to child care.	Yes	Implement proper hand washing techniques, especially wash hands between diaper changes and before preparing food. Consult with Bureau of Child Care - notification of parents/guardians may be necessary. Prepare food or formula aseptically, and clean and sanitize all toys.



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Diarrheal Diseases	Varies depending on the cause	Abnormally loose or watery stool	Fecal-oral route, through contaminated food, water or hands.	Varies depending on cause.	Exclude child and staff until diarrhea is gone. For certain diarrheal diseases, negative follow up stool tests are required before child or staff can return.	Yes, if three or more cases.	Implement proper hand washing techniques, especially wash hands between diaper changes and before preparing food. Consult with Bureau of Child Care - notification of parents/guardians may be necessary if three or more cases.
Diphtheria	2 to 5 days	Sore throat, fever, croup, hoarseness, nasal discharge	Sneezing and coughing on others, contaminated articles.	As long as bacteria are in the mouth or nose.	Exclude child from center until physician gives permission to return.	Yes	Notify parents/guardians via letter provided by the NYC Health Department including guidance for post-exposure prophylaxis, if indicated. Required immunization for children and staff.
Escherichia coli (O157:H7 and other Shiga toxin-producing bacteria)	3 to 5 days	Diarrhea (may be bloody), abdominal pain and fever	Fecal-oral route, through contaminated food, water or hands.	As long as bacteria are present in the stool.	Exclude child or staff until diarrhea is gone, and until two stool tests are negative.	Yes	Implement proper hand washing techniques, especially wash hands between diaper changes and before preparing food. Consult with Bureau of Child Care - notification of parents/guardians may be necessary. Prepare food or formula aseptically and clean and sanitize all toys.
Fifth Disease (Erythema Infectiosum) (caused by Parvovirus B19)	4 to 15 days	Fever, "slapped cheek," an appearing rash spreading throughout the body. Rash disappears quickly.	Sneezing and coughing on others, and mucus or saliva contaminated articles.	Uncertain - children are probably not-contagious once rash appears.	Follow physician's instructions.	Yes, if three or more cases.	Wash hands frequently. Sanitize all articles used by children. Teachers and staff who are pregnant should advise physician of their exposure.
Food Poisoning	Hours to days (Varies depending on the cause)	Diarrhea, vomiting, fever, chills, headache and/or muscle pain.	Ingesting food or water contaminated with a bacteria, virus or toxin.	Varies depending on cause.	Exclude child and staff until symptoms are gone.	Yes, if three or more cases.	Implement proper hand washing techniques, especially wash hands between diaper changes and before preparing food. Consult with Bureau of Child Care - notification of parents/guardians may be necessary. Prepare food or formula aseptically and clean and sanitize all toys.



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Giardiasis (Beaver Fever) (caused by Giardia, an intestinal parasite)	1 to 4 weeks, usually 7 to 10 days	Diarrhea (persistent or recurring), gas, stomach cramps, bloating, nausea and weight loss. Some infected children may show no symptoms.	Fecal-oral route, through contaminated food, water or hands.	Until parasite no longer in stool, normally 2 to 6 weeks but can persist for months.	Exclude child or staff until diarrhea is gone and until three stool tests are negative. Child Care staff (i.e., food handlers) must receive approval from NYC Health Department prior to returning to child care.	Yes	Implement proper hand washing techniques, especially wash hands between diaper changes and before preparing food. Consult with Bureau of Child Care - notification of parents/guardians may be necessary.
Haemophilus Influenzae Type-B.	2 to 4 days	Meningitis, otitis media, blood stream infections, epiglottitis, pneumonia	Direct contact, inhalation of droplets from sneezing and coughing.	May be as long as bacteria is in the mouth or nose.	Exclude child. Return with physician's permission.	Yes	Notify parents/guardians and staff using NYC Health Department letter including instructions for post-exposure antibiotic prophylaxis, if indicated. Required immunization for children.
Hepatitis A (Infectious Hepatitis) (caused by Hepatitis A virus)	15 to 50 days, usually 25 to 30 days	Upset stomach, tired, dark-colored urine, light-colored stool, yellowish skin and eyes	Fecal-oral route, through contaminated food, water or hands.	From 2 weeks before symptom onset until 1 week after jaundice (yellowness) appears.	Exclude child and staff for 1 week after jaundice (or symptom onset). Return with NYC Health Department permission.	Yes	Implement proper hand washing techniques, especially wash hands between diaper changes and before preparing food. Sanitize all toys. Consult with Bureau of Child Care - notification of parents/guardians and staff may be necessary. Use NYC Health Department letter including instructions for post-exposure hepatitis A vaccine or immune globulin prophylaxis, if indicated.
Impetigo (caused by Staph or Strep virus)	7 to 10 days	Blisters, crusts, scabs on skin which are fluid and yellow (may be weeping)	Direct contact with infected area or with nasal discharges from infected child.	As long as lesions with discharges are present.	Exclude child for 24 hours after treatment has been initiated.	Yes, if three or more cases.	Children and staff should wash hands frequently throughout the day. Notify parents/guardians.
Kawasaki Syndrome	N/A	Fever, rash, swelling of the hands and feet, irritation and redness of the whites of the eyes, swollen lymph glands	From an unknown infectious agent.	Unknown	Follow physician's instructions.	No	Notify NYC Health Department immediately if two or more cases.



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Measles (Rubeola) (caused by Measles virus)	7 to 21 days	Fever, cough, red inflamed eyes, runny nose, red brown blotchy rash on face that spreads to body.	Spread through the air by sneezing and coughing on others, contaminated articles.	4 days before the rash appears to 4 days after.	Exclude child until 5 days after the rash appears.	Yes	Notify parents/guardians via letter provided by NYC Health Department including guidance for post-exposure antibiotic prophylaxis, if indicated. Sanitize all articles. NYC Health Department will share guidance to exclude students and staff in the building if they don't have measles-containing vaccine unless they get vaccinated within 3 days of initial exposure. Required immunization for children and staff.
Meningitis (Bacterial) (May be caused by other disease. See specific disease for additional info.) Meningitis (Viral) (May be caused by other disease. See specific disease for additional info.)	2 to 10 days	Fever, headache, vomiting, chills, neck pain or stiffness, muscle spasms	Sneezing and coughing on others, contact with mucus or saliva-contaminated articles, or fecal-oral route depending upon organism involved.	Varies	Exclude child. Return with physician's permission.	Yes	Notify parents/guardians. May require antibiotic prophylaxis for all contacts. Clean and sanitize all articles used by child.
Meningococcal Disease Invasive	2 to 10 days	Some may develop fever, headache, vomiting, stiff neck and a rash. Sometimes the disease can be fatal.	Direct close contact with nose or throat discharges of an infected person.	An infected person may be contagious from the time they are first infected until the germ is no longer present in discharges from the nose and throat.	Follow physician's instructions.	Yes	Notify parents/guardians. Antibiotic prophylaxis or vaccination may be required
Molluscum Contagiosum	2 to 7 weeks, and longer	Small flesh-colored bumps on skin that may have tiny, hard indented center lesions. May last several months.	Direct contact with infected individuals.	Unknown	No exclusion. Do not let child scratch open lesion.	Yes, if three or more cases.	Careful and frequent hand washing. Do not share towels. Notify parents/guardians.



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Mumps (Parotitis) (caused by Mumps virus)	12 to 25 days	Swelling in front of ear, cold-like symptoms	Secretions of the mouth and nose, contaminated articles.	2 days before to 5 days after swelling.	Exclude child until 6 days after swelling begins.	Yes	Notify parents/guardians via letter provided by NYC Health Department. Sanitize all articles. NYC Health Department will share guidance to exclude students and staff in the building if they don't have mumps-containing vaccine. Required immunization for children and staff.
Norovirus	10 to 50 hours	Nausea and vomiting., diarrhea, abdominal pain, myalgia, headache, malaise, low grade fever, or a combination of these symptoms. Gastro intestinal symptoms typically last 24 to 72 hours.	Fecal-oral route,through contaminated food, water or hands. Vomitus is also very contagious.	Until symptoms are gone and virus is no longer in stool.	Exclude child or staff until vomiting and diarrhea are gone.	Yes, if three or more cases.	Implement proper hand washing techniques, especially wash hands between diaper changes and before preparing food. Consult with Bureau of Child Care - notification of parents/guardians may be necessary.
Pediculosis (Head Lice) Caused by Pediculus Capitis (the head louse)	24 to 72 hours to 2 weeks	Severe itching, small lice eggs (nits) on hair, lice crawling through hair	Direct contact with infected individuals or their clothing; article to article contact (e.g. coats, blankets, hats).	As long as lice or eggs remain alive. (Lice cannot survive off a human for longer than 2 days.)	Do not exclude child just for nits. There is no need to send a child home early because of head lice. The child can go home at the end of the day, be treated, and return to daycare/class after appropriate treatment has begun.	Yes, if three or more cases.	Vacuum to get rid of lice in environment. Send all clothing and bedding home to be washed in hot water. Notify parents/guardians.
Pertussis (Whooping Cough) (caused by Bordatella Pertussis bacterium)	7 to 21 days	Cough for 2 or more weeks with vomiting after cough, or rapid bursts of cough or whoop	Sneezing and coughing on others, contaminated articles.	When cough begins until 21 days after coughing begins, or 5 days after starting antibiotic treatment.	Exclude child from center until after completion of appropriate antibiotics or until 22 days after cough begins.	Yes	Notify parents/guardians via letter provided by NYC Health Department. Sanitize all articles. NYC Health Department will share guidance to exclude students and staff in the building if they don't have the required number of doses of pertussis-containing vaccine. Required immunization for children and staff.



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Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis) (caused by various viruses or bacteria)	24 to 72 hours	Tearing, swollen eyelids, redness, purulent discharge from eyes	Contact with discharge from eyes, nose or mouth, contaminated fingers and shared articles.	During the period of active symptoms.	Exclude child until drainage/secretion of eyes is gone.	Yes, if three or more cases.	Notify parents/guardians. Wash all items used by child. Staff and children must practice good hand hygiene.
Pneumonia	2 days to 4 weeks	Chills, fever, vomiting, chest pain, cough, sputum may be bloody	Sneezing and coughing on others, contact with mucus-contaminated articles.	Depends on the cause; usually not contagious.	Exclude child until recovered or has physician gives permission to return.	Yes, if three or more cases	Sanitize all articles used by children who are ill.
Polio	6 to 20 days	Flu symptoms, malaise, muscle weakness, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea	Stool from infected person on hands or objects, and respiratory secretions.	7 to 10 days before and after onset of symptoms.	Exclude child from center until physician gives permission to return.	Yes	Notify parents/guardians via letter provided by NYC Health Department. Sanitize all articles. NYC Health Department will share guidance to exclude students if they do not have the required number of doses of polio-containing vaccine. Required immunization for children.
Ringworm (caused by various skin fungi)	4 to 10 days	Red, scaling lesions and broken hairs from skin/head	Direct or indirect contact.	As long as lesions are active.	Exclude child until treatment has begun. Cover if possible when attending child care.	Yes, if three or more cases.	Wash all items used by child who has the infection. Put away play clothes and clean. Notify parents/guardians.
Rubella (german-measles) (caused by Rubella virus)	12 to 23 days	Rash, red eyes, sore throat, headache, fever, swollen glands. For adults: joint pain.	Sneezing and coughing on others, contaminated articles.	7 days before rash until 7 days after rash appears.	Exclude child for 7 days after rash appears.	Yes	Notify parents/guardians via letter provided by NYC Health Department. Sanitize all articles. NYC Health Department will share guidance to exclude students and staff in the building if they do not have the required number of doses of rubella-containing vaccine. Required immunization for children and staff.
Salmonellosis	1 to 3 days	Mild or severe diarrhea, fever and sometimes vomiting	Fecal-oral route, through contaminated food, water or hands.	As long as bacteria are present in the stool.	Exclude child until diarrhea is gone. Exclude staff who are involved in food handling or diapering until diarrhea is gone and until two stool tests are negative.	Yes	Implement proper hand washing techniques, especially wash hands between diaper changes and before preparing food. Consult with Bureau of Child Care - notification of parents/guardians may be necessary.



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Scabies (caused by Scabies mite)	2 to 6 weeks, 1 to 4 days in persons previously infested	Intense itching usually between fingers and skin folds	Direct contact.	As long as mites are alive.	Exclude child until 24 hours after treatment has started.	Yes, if three or more cases.	Wash all bedding and clothing in hot water. Notify parents/guardians.
Scarlet Fever (Strep A) (caused by Group A Beta Hemolytic Strep)	2 to 5 days	Sore throat, fever, headache, rough (sand paper-like) red rash on body and flushed face	Sneezing and coughing on others; mucous or saliva-contaminated articles.	1 to 3 days before symptoms until child has been on antibiotics for 24 hours.	Exclude child until they have been on antibiotics for 24 hours.	Yes, if three or more cases.	Encourage hand washing, especially after coughing and sneezing, and before preparing foods or eating. Sanitize all articles used.
Shigellosis (caused by Shigella bacterium)	1 to 7 days, usually 2 to 3 days	Mild or severe diarrhea, fever, sometimes with traces of blood or mucus in stool	Person-to-person by exposure to feces during toileting or diapering.	As long as bacteria is present in stool.	Exclude child or staff until diarrhea is gone and until two stool tests are normal.	Yes	Implement proper hand washing techniques, especially wash hands between diaper changes and before preparing food. Consult with Bureau of Child Care - notification of parents/guardians may be necessary.
Streptococcal-infections (caused by Group A)	1 to 5 days	Sore throat, fever, headache and swollen lymph glands	Sneezing and coughing on others, contact with mucus or saliva-contaminated articles.	3 days before symptoms until 24 hours after antibiotics.	Exclude child until they have recovered or they have been on antibiotics for 24 hours and has had no fever for 24 hours.	Yes, if three or more cases.	Encourage hand washing, sanitize all articles used by child.
Tetanus	3 to 21 days	Spasms and paralysis	Certain bacteria in soil enters body through cuts and wounds.	N/A	N/A	Yes	Clean all cuts, scrapes and puncture wounds with soap and water. Required immunization for children and staff. Notify parents/guardians.
Positive TB test (positive purified protein derivative [PPD] skin test or positive blood test)	Bacteria can be carried in the body for many years without active disease	Chronic cough, weight loss, fever, growth delay, night sweats and chills	Infants and young children: Not contagious. Adolescents/adults: Spread by coughing and contaminating the environment as long as the disease is active	When there is close contact with an adult who has TB, through coughing or sneezing when disease is active.	Exclude child until effective therapy has started. Return with physician's permission or NYC Health Department.	Yes	Notify parents/guardians.
Typhoid/Paratyphoid	1 to 2 weeks	Mild or severe illness, may include fever, headache, diarrhea, constipation (stool that is hard and dry, or difficult to pass) rose-colored spots on the chest, back or stomach, and an enlarged spleen and liver	Typhoid/paratyphoid germs are passed in the stool and sometimes in the urine of infected people. The germs are spread by eating or drinking water or foods contaminated by stool from an infected person.	As long as bacteria is present in the stool.	Exclude child or staff until asymptomatic and four documented negative stools over a 30 day period.	Yes	Implement proper hand washing techniques, especially wash hands between diaper changes and before preparing food. Consult with Bureau of Child Care - notification of parents/guardians may be necessary.



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Yersiniosis (Yersinia Enterocolitica/Pseudo tuberculosis)	3 to 6 days	Diarrhea, fever, and abdominal discomfort. Symptoms may mimic appendicitis.	Yersiniosis is spread by eating or drinking contaminated food or water.	As long as bacteria is present in the stool.	Exclude child until diarrhea is gone. Exclude staff who are involved in food handling or diapering until diarrhea is gone and until two stool tests are normal.	Yes	Implement proper hand washing techniques, especially wash hands between diaper changes and before preparing food. Consult with Bureau of Child Care - notification of parents/guardians may be necessary.