

Austin ISD Most Common Communicable Diseases

Condition	Methods of Transmission	Signs & Symptoms	Exclusion from School	Readmission Criteria
Common Cold	Breathing in respiratory droplets containing the pathogen after an infected person exhales, sneezes, or coughs Direct contact with respiratory secretions from an infected person Touching a contaminated object then touching mouth, nose, or eyes	Runny nose, watery eyes, fatigue, coughing, and sneezing	No, unless fever	Fever free without the use of fever suppressing medications
Diarrhea	Eating fecally-contaminated food or drinking fecally-contaminated water, or having close contact with an infected person	Three or more episodes of loose stools in a 24 hour period ☐	Yes	Diarrhea free without the use of diarrhea suppressing medications
Fever	Variable by condition	A temperature of 100° Fahrenheit or higher	Yes	Fever free without the use of fever suppressing medications
Influenza	Breathing in respiratory droplets containing the pathogen after an infected person exhales, sneezes, or coughs Direct contact with respiratory secretions from an infected person Touching a contaminated surface then touching mouth, nose, or eyes	Rapid onset of fever, headache, sore throat, dry cough, chills, lack of energy, and muscle aches Children can also have nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea	Yes	Fever free without the use of fever suppressing medications
Lice (Pediculosis)	Direct contact with infected persons and objects used by them	Itching and scratching of scalp Presence of live lice or pinpoint-sized white eggs (nits) that will not flick off the hair shaft	No	No exclusion
Rash / Skin Symptoms	Variable by condition	Visit DSHS Communicable Disease Chart for specific information		
Stomach Virus	Eating fecally-contaminated food or drinking fecally-contaminated water, or having close contact with an infected person	Nausea and diarrhea Fever does not usually occur	Yes	Diarrhea free and fever free without the use of suppressing medications
Conjunctivitis, Bacterial or Viral (Pink Eye)	Touching infected person’s skin, body fluid, or a contaminated surface	Red eyes, usually with some discharge or crusting around eyes	Yes	Permission and/or permit is issued by a physician or local health authority or until symptom free