

**Minimum Exclusion Periods for Infectious Conditions – as at October 2022**

- A parent/guardian of a child with a listed exclusion condition, or a child who has been in contact with a listed exclusion condition, is required to notify the Director as soon as possible (ACT Health 2016).
- Conditions marked \* must be notified by medical practitioners to the ACT Chief Health Officer.
- The Director must notify ACT Chief Health Officer of the conditions marked #.
- Some diseases, eg, pertussis, typhoid, tuberculosis, meningococcal disease and hepatitis A, can cause concern among families. Heritage will contact ACT Health for support and advice.
- The definition of ‘contacts’ and ‘appropriate antibiotic treatment’ will vary according to the disease. If concerned, families are asked to contact ACT Health.
- For the purpose of this policy the **definition of diarrhoea** is: ‘Two or more consecutive bowel motions that are looser and more frequent than normal or escapes a child’s nappy.’

**Additional Exclusion Guidelines During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

<b>COVID-19</b>	<p>Any staff member, child or visitor to the service who presents with any of the following, will be <b>excluded from the service for 5 days and until a negative test is received and symptoms resolve.</b></p> <p>Any child/adult who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tests positive for COVID-19 #</li> <li>• Has a temperature <b>over 37.5° C.</b></li> <li>• Presents with <a href="#">COVID symptoms</a>, (<i>unless they have a letter from a G.P explaining the symptoms as due to a non-infectious on-going medical condition. In this case, they will be carefully monitored for new symptoms</i>).</li> <li>• Has been requested to self-isolate/quarantine.</li> <li>• Has recently travelled overseas or interstate where restrictions are in place.</li> </ul> <p><b>Testing Advice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the child/adult has symptoms and tests negative on a RAT, they are advised to take a PCR test to exclude COVID-19 and remain at home until they receive the result and their symptoms resolve.</li> <li>• PCR tests are recommended for under those under 2 and families are advised to call their G.P. or Healthdirect on 1800 022 222 for medical advice if symptoms are concerning.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Household Contacts:</b> If a household contact of a Heritage child is diagnosed with COVID-19, the family are asked not to bring their child to the service.</p> <p>Staff who are household contacts and who attend the service must comply with <a href="#">testing requirements and advice for asymptomatic household contacts</a> and immediately isolate if they develop symptoms, no matter how mild.</p>
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Condition	Exclusion of Case	Exclusion of Contacts
Acute Respiratory Illness or RSV #	Exclude if <b>unwell with symptoms of an acute respiratory illness that may spread the virus, such as coughing and sneezing, until symptoms have resolved.</b> <b>A Respiratory Illness Cluster (&gt;3 cases in 72 hours) must be reported to ACT Health #</b>	Unwell siblings should not attend the centre during drop off and pick up.
Amoebiasis (Entamoeba histolytica)	See 'Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting'	Not excluded
<b>Antibiotics</b>	Exclude for <b>24 hours</b> after commencement	Not excluded
<b>Bronchiolitis or Bronchitis (virus)</b>	No exclusion period but exclude if considered by the Director and Room Leader to be too unwell and not coping/sufficiently distressed <b>or deemed to be spreading the virus via coughing or sneezing, until symptoms have ceased.</b> <b>A Respiratory Illness Cluster (&gt;3 cases in 72 hours) must be reported to ACT Health #</b>	Not excluded
Campylobacter infection *	See 'Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting'	Not excluded
Candidiasis	See 'Thrush - genital'	
Chickenpox *	See 'Varicella'	
Cold sores (Herpes Simplex, Virus – HSV)	Exclude all Babies and Toddlers until fully recovered as they cannot comply with hygiene procedures. Parents/guardians/staff/visitors with cold sores will be allowed in all areas except Nursery provided they take necessary hygiene precautions in their contact with children, ie, keep lesions covered; do not kiss the children; do not use communal cups, cutlery, etc.	Not excluded
Conjunctivitis	Exclude until the discharge and redness from the eyes has stopped, including discharge on waking, unless a doctor has diagnosed non-infectious conjunctivitis. It is recommended that the full course of treatment be completed.	Not excluded
<b>Coughs and colds</b>	Exclude for <b>24 hours if has a high temperature (38 degrees or above), has been given paracetamol or other medication for a fever in the last 24 hours, is on antibiotics, or is considered by Director and Room Leader to be too unwell to attend</b> (eg, persistent coughing and sneezing that may spread the virus, or runny nose, thick yellow and foul-smelling nasal discharge, or not coping/sufficiently distressed), until symptoms have resolved.	Unwell siblings should not attend the centre during drop off and pick up.
Croup	A child considered well enough to attend must be accompanied by a certificate of non-infectiousness from their doctor	Not excluded
Cryptosporidium *	See 'Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting'	Not excluded
Cytomegalovirus (CMV)	Not excluded	Not excluded



infection		
<b>Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting including:</b> - Aamoebiasis - Campylobacter - Cryptosporidium - Rotavirus # - Salmonella - Viral gastroenteritis (See separate sections for Giardiasis, Norovirus, Shigella)	Exclude for a <b>full 36 hours after last loose bowel motion and has returned to a normal diet</b> . Exclude while on <b>anti-diarrhoea medication</b> (eg Flagyl). If the cause is unknown, possible exclusion for <b>48hours</b> until cause is identified. <b>If 2 or more children have vomiting or diarrhoea on the same day, exclude until 48 hours after last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea and notify Health Protection Service.</b> <b>Staff</b> excluded until <b>48 hours</b> after diarrhoea ceases and must not be rostered on to <b>food preparation duties</b> until at least <b>72 hours</b> after their diarrhoea ceases.	<b>Not excluded</b>
Diphtheria * #	Exclude until at least 2 negative throat swabs have been taken (the first not less than 24 hours after cessation of antibiotic treatment and the second not less than 48 hours later), and (b) a certificate is provided by a doctor recommending that the exclusion should cease.	Exclude family and household contacts until approval to return has been given by the Chief Health Officer
Ear infections	Exclude if considered by the Director and Room to be unwell and not able to join in activities or not coping/sufficiently distressed. Exclude for a full 24 hours after commencing any antibiotics	Not excluded
<b>Fever/High temperature</b> (non-specific)	Exclude for full <b>24 hours</b> if temperature is <b>38°C or above. 48 hours</b> if > one child registers fevers on the same day. Also exclude for <b>24 hours after the last time paracetamol or other medication was administered to reduce a fever.</b>	Not excluded
Fungal infections of the skin or nails (e.g. ringworm, tinea)	Exclude until the day after starting appropriate antifungal treatment.	Not excluded
German measles	See 'Rubella'	
Giardiasis	As for 'Diarrhoea and/or vomiting' AND until a medical certificate of recovery is produced.	Not excluded
Glandular fever (Mononucleosis, EBV infection)	Excluded until a medical certificate of recovery is produced.	Not excluded
Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) * #	Exclude until the person has completed the appropriate antibiotic treatment for at least 4 days and a medical certificate of recovery is produced	Not excluded
Hand, foot and mouth disease	Exclude until all blisters have dried and the child is well enough to attend	Not excluded
Head lice (Pediculosis)	Excluded until the day after effective treatment has commenced and all lice and eggs have been removed.	Not excluded
Hepatitis A *	Exclude at least until 7 days after the onset of jaundice and until a medical certificate of recovery is produced.	Not excluded. Contact ACT Health for advice about vaccinating or treating



		children in the same room or group.
Hepatitis B	Exclude until they are well enough to attend and join in activities	Not excluded
Hepatitis C	Exclude until they are well enough to attend and join in activities	Not excluded
Herpes Simplex	See 'Cold Sores'	
Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV/AIDS)	Exclude until well enough to attend. If the person is severely immunocompromised, they will be vulnerable to other people's illnesses.	Not excluded
Human parvovirus B19 (fifth disease, erythema infectiosum, slapped cheek syndrome)	Exclude until rash disappears	Not excluded
Hydatid disease	Not excluded	Not excluded
<b>Immunisation</b>	<p>Not excluded unless considered by the Director and Room Leader to be too unwell, <b>sufficiently distressed</b> and not able to participate in activities</p> <p><u>Heritage recommends children be immunised on non- Heritage days or make a late afternoon appointment.</u></p> <p>Parents/guardians must <b>notify</b> the Room Leader on the day of immunisation so that educators are alert to any signs of adverse reactions or distress.</p> <p>Adverse reactions must be reported to ACT Health. #</p>	Not excluded
Impetigo (school sores)	Exclude until appropriate antibiotic treatment has commenced for 24 hours and until all sores have healed or covered with a water tight dressing	Not excluded
Influenza and influenza-like illnesses	Exclude until well enough to attend and join in activities	Not excluded
Leprosy *	Exclude until approval to return has been given by the Chief Health Officer	Not excluded
Listeriosis	Not excluded	Not excluded
Measles * #	Exclude for at least 4 days after the onset of the rash and until a medical certificate of recovery is produced.	<p>Immunised and immune contacts are not excluded.</p> <p>Exclude non-immunised contacts until 14 days after first day of appearance of the rash in the last case.</p> <p>Non-immunised contacts immunised with measles vaccine within 72 hours after their first contact with the index case are not excluded after being immunised.</p> <p>Non-immunised contacts who are given normal human immunoglobulin (NHIG) within 7 days after their first contact with the index case</p>

		are not excluded after being given NHIG
Meningitis (bacterial)	Exclude until has received appropriate antibiotics and a medical certificate of recovery is produced	Not excluded
Meningitis (viral)	Exclude until well enough to attend and join in activities	Not excluded
Meningococcal infection *	Exclude until adequate carrier eradication therapy has been completed and a medical certificate of recovery is produced.	Not excluded if receiving rifampicin or other antibiotic treatment recommended by the Chief Health Officer. Otherwise, excluded until 10 days after last contact with the index case. Contact Chief Health Officer for advice about antibiotics and/or vaccination for people who were in the same room as the case
Molluscum contagiosum	Not excluded	Not excluded
Mumps * #	Exclude for nine days after onset of swelling	Not excluded
Norovirus	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion or vomiting for 48 hours.	Not excluded
Parvovirus infection	See 'Human Parvovirus'	
Pertussis (Whooping Cough) * #	Exclude for 21 days from start of cough, or for 5 days after starting a course of antibiotics recommended by the Chief Health Officer	Exclude non-immunised household, home based child care and close child care contacts under 7 years old for 14 days after the last exposure to infection, or until 5 days after starting a course of antibiotics recommended by the Chief Health Officer (whichever is sooner)
Poliomyelitis * #	Exclude for at least 14 days after onset of symptoms and until a certificate is provided by a medical practitioner or public health unit recommending that the exclusion should cease	Not excluded
Pneumococcal disease	Exclude until well and able to join in activities	Not excluded
<b>Roseola</b>	<b>Exclude until rash and fever disappears</b>	<b>Not excluded</b>
Ross River virus	Not excluded	Not excluded
Rotavirus infection #	See 'Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting'	
Rubella (German measles) * #	Exclude for 4 days after the appearance of the rash and until fully recovered	Not excluded. Female staff of child-bearing age should ensure that their rubella immune status is adequate
Salmonella infection *	See 'Diarrhoea and Vomiting'	Not excluded
Scabies (Ringworm, tinea)	Exclude until day after appropriate treatment has commenced.	Not excluded
Scarlet fever	See 'Streptococcal sore throat'	
School sores	See 'Impetigo'	

Shigella infection *	Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 36 hours and two samples, 24 hours apart have tested negative	Not excluded
Slapped Cheek Syndrome	See 'Human Parvovirus'	
Streptococcal sore throat (including scarlet fever)	Exclude until has received antibiotic treatment for at least 24 hours and feels well.	Not excluded
Temperature	See 'Fever/High Temperature'	
Thrush (genital)	Exclude until proof that appropriate medical treatment has commenced. Children currently being toilet trained will be reviewed individually	Not excluded
Toxoplasmosis	Not excluded	Not excluded
Tuberculosis (TB) *	Exclude until medical certificate is produced from the appropriate health authority	Not excluded. Contact a public health unit for advice about screening, antibiotics or specialist TB clinics
Typhoid and paratyphoid fever *	Exclude until medical certificate is produced from appropriate health authority	Not excluded unless advised by public health authority.
Vaccination	See 'Immunisation'	
Varicella (Chickenpox)	Exclude for at least 5 days after rash first appears AND all blisters are dry AND the person is systemically well	Any child or staff with an immune deficiency (for example, leukaemia) or receiving chemotherapy should be excluded for their own protection. Otherwise, not excluded. Exclude any pregnant woman who is, or is presumed to be susceptible
Viral gastroenteritis (viral diarrhoea)	See 'Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting'	
Vomiting	See 'Diarrhoea and Vomiting'	
Warts	Not excluded	Not excluded
Whooping cough * #	See 'Pertussis'	
Worms	Exclude until diarrhoea ceases for 36 hours	Not excluded

**Adapted from:** [Recommended Minimum Exclusion Periods](#) in [Staying Healthy. Preventing infectious diseases in early childhood education and care services, 5th Edition, NHMRC 2013](#)