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Sickness Exclusion Policy

This policy sets out the exclusion periods from playgroup for children who are ill, including if they are infectious. **St Thomas' Playgroup** takes into consideration guidance from the Health Protection Agency with regards to exclusion periods for illnesses and infection control, as well as the needs of the children and staff.

Illness/Infection	St Thomas Playgroup Exclusion Period for children
Chicken Pox/Shingles	5 days from onset of rash as long as spots are crusted over
Cold Sores (Herpes simplex)	None
Conjunctivitis	None (If there is an outbreak we will consider exclusion after consultation with the HPA)
Diarrhoea and/or Vomiting including Rotavirus/Norovirus/Gastroenteritis	48 hours from the last episode, if as a result of illness or infection. (Also, after 3 or more loose stools in a nursery session as a result of illness/infection, children are required to be sent home and may return 48 hours after the last episode)
Flu (Influenza)	Until recovered fully enough to participate in nursery activities
German Measles (Rubella)*	6 days from onset of rash
Glandular Fever	None, however must be well enough to participate in nursery activities
Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease	None however must be well enough to participate in nursery activities. (If there is an outbreak we will consider exclusion after consultation with the HPA)
Head lice	None
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted or healed, or 48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment
Measles*	4 days from onset of rash
Meningitis*	Until recovered (We will follow the instructions of the local Health Protection Unit)
Mumps*	5 days after onset of swollen glands
Ringworm	Until treatment has commenced
Scabies	Until treatment has commenced
Scarlet Fever/Scarletina*	24 hours after commencing antibiotics

Slapped cheek/Fifth Disease/Parovirus	None, however must be well enough to participate in nursery activities
Threadworm	None

* = Notifiable diseases

Please note this list is not exhaustive but contains the most common exclusions.

Parents should always seek advice from their GP or Accident and Emergency department regarding the specific symptoms of their child.

NHS Direct 0845 4647 www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

Children who are ill

It is at the Manager's discretion whether or not to allow a child into playgroup if they are showing signs of illness, even if there is no exclusion period or if this is after any exclusion period has passed or if a doctor has stated that they are not infectious. The Manager will need to take into account the demeanor of the child and whether they are well enough to participate in playgroup activities. They must also consider whether allowing a sick child in playgroup would affect the staff to child ratios, as children who are unwell may require continual one to one attention. If we allow a child showing signs of illness or who has recently recovered from an illness into playgroup then we will monitor them regularly and will contact parent/s to ask that they are collected if they become unwell again.

Illness Outbreaks

If there is an outbreak of an illness in playgroup then the Manger will consult with the local Health Protection Unit for advice. We may decide to exclude children in order to control an outbreak even where this is not listed in our normal exclusion policy.

Infectious Illness reporting

If a child has an illness we would request that the parent/s contact the playgroup as soon as possible so we can communicate this to all staff and parents, as well as Health Protection and Ofsted if it is a notifiable disease. This is particularly important in case a child has come into contact with a pregnant staff member or parent.

This policy was adopted by St Thomas' Playgroup on October 2016 and will be reviewed on October 2017

