WISCONSIN CHILDHOOD COMMUNICABLE DISEASES: EYES, EARS, NOSE, and THROAT

Disease Name (aka, causative agent)	Spread by	Incubation Period (Time from exposure to symptoms)	Signs and Symptoms	Time Period When Person is Contagious	Criteria for Exclusion from School or Group
Cold sores (Herpes simplex virus)	Direct contact with open sores or saliva	2 days to 2 weeks	Fever[1], irritability, blisters in mouth, on gums or lips	For at least 1 week after symptoms appear; shedding of the virus at low levels is possible after symptoms resolve	Exclude until fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and child is able to control drooling while blisters are present inside mouth
Mononucleosis (Mono, Epstein-Barr virus)	Person-to-person contact with saliva	30–50 days	Fever[1], sore throat, swollen lymph nodes, fatigue, enlarged liver or spleen	Many months after infection; excretion of virus can occur intermittently for life	None, unless illness prevents participation; no contact sports until spleen no longer enlarged
Mumps ▯ ▮ (Mumps virus)	Inhalation of respiratory droplets, direct contact with saliva of infected person	12–25 days; usually 16–18 days	Fever[1], swelling and tenderness of parotid glands, headache, earache, painful swollen testicles, abdominal pain with swollen ovaries	From 2 days before to 5 days after swelling	Exclude for 5 days after swelling onset (day of swelling onset is day zero); exclude at risk[2] contacts from day 12 through day 25 after exposure
Pink Eye (Bacterial or viral conjunctivitis)	Person-to-person; hand to eye contact with infected eye, nose or mouth secretions from infected person, or contaminated surfaces	Variable depending on causative organism	Bacterial: red/pink itchy eye(s), green/yellow eye discharge Viral: pink-swollen eye(s), light sensitivity	While signs and symptoms are present	None, unless fever[1] or behavior change; antibiotics not required for return
Strep Throat and **Scarlet Fever** (Streptococcal pharyngitis, Group A *Streptococcus*)	Contact with infectious respiratory droplets and saliva, direct contact with mouth or nose secretions	2–5 days	Sore throat, fever[1], headache, tender swollen lymph nodes, decreased appetite, chills and sweats	Until 12 hours after initiation of appropriate antibiotic treatment	Exclude for at least 12 hours after initiation of appropriate antibiotic and fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication

Onsite Control and Prevention Measures

For all diseases: Good handwashing and hygiene; avoid kissing, sharing drinks, or utensils, use proper disinfection of surfaces and toys
Mumps: Provide immunization records for exposed individuals to public health officials
Strep Throat: Avoid kissing, sharing drinks, or utensils; exclude infected food handlers; minimize contact with respiratory and oral secretions

▯ = Reportable to State and local health departments   ▮ = Vaccine preventable

[1]Fever = Temperature 100.4°F or higher, regardless of the route it is taken (mouth, rectum, armpit, ear, forehead). Only take a child's temperature if the child seems ill.
[2]At risk or more likely to get sick = Persons not immunized, with compromised immune systems, or pregnant
[3]High risk settings = Health care, child care, food service

Three Key Criteria for Exclusion: Most childhood illnesses do not require exclusion. Caregiver/teacher should determine if the illness 1) prevents child from participating comfortably in activities, 2) results in need for care that is greater than staff can provide without compromising health and safety of other children, or 3) poses risk of spread. If any of these criteria are met, child should be excluded regardless of the type of illness.

This chart of selected communicable diseases information is meant only as a guide to answer questions frequently asked of persons who have responsibility for groups of children in day care centers, schools, summer camps, or other similar situations. The chart is not meant to be an all-inclusive list of significant diseases, or be a comprehensive guide to all the information about each disease. More specific information about these or other diseases may be obtained from your local public health agency or at: https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/childhood-communicable-diseases.htm