

# WISCONSIN CHILDHOOD COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

## Gastrointestinal

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
<b>Diarrhea of unknown cause</b>	Usually fecal-oral	Variable	3 or more loose stools in 24- hour period	Variable	Exclude until asymptomatic for 24 hours
<b>Gastroenteritis, Bacterial R</b> · <i>Campylobacter</i> · <i>Salmonella</i> · <i>Shigella</i> · <i>E. coli</i> O157:H7 and other Shiga toxin-producing <i>E. coli</i> (STEC)	Fecal-oral: person-to-person, water, food For bacteria other than <i>Shigella</i> : animal-to-person, especially livestock, poultry, and pets	1-7 days; usually 2-5 days, varies by bacteria	Mild to severe diarrhea that can be bloody, abdominal cramps, may include vomiting or fever, asymptomatic infections possible; Shiga toxin-producing <i>E. coli</i> can cause severe kidney complications; <i>Salmonella</i> can cause bloodstream and urinary tract infections	While bacteria present in stool, weeks to months	Exclude until asymptomatic for 24 hours; For high-risk settings* Shiga toxin-producing <i>E. coli</i> and <i>Shigella</i> require 2 consecutive negative fecal samples collected at least 24 hours apart and obtained at least 48 hours after antimicrobial therapy completed; consult with local health department
<b>Gastroenteritis, Parasitic R</b> · <i>Cryptosporidium</i> · <i>Giardia</i>	Fecal-oral: water, person-to-person, food, animal-to-person, especially calves	<i>Cryptosporidium</i> : 3-14 days <i>Giardia</i> : 1-3 weeks	Acute non-bloody watery diarrhea, abdominal pain, fatigue, fever, anorexia and weight loss; can have recurring symptoms <i>Giardia</i> can cause foul smelling stools	<i>Cryptosporidium</i> : up to 2 weeks, months for immune-compromised; most contagious during diarrhea phase <i>Giardia</i> : weeks to months	Exclude until asymptomatic for 24 hours; no swimming for 2 weeks after diarrhea resolves
<b>Gastroenteritis, Viral</b> · <i>Norovirus</i> · <i>Rotavirus V</i>	Fecal-oral: person-to-person, water, food, environmental surfaces	12-72 hours	Acute onset vomiting and/or non-bloody diarrhea, possible nausea, abdominal cramps, low grade fever, headache, malaise	While symptomatic up to 3 weeks after symptoms resolve; virus can be present before onset of diarrhea	Exclude until asymptomatic for 24 hours with rotavirus and 48 hours with norovirus
<b>Hepatitis A R/V</b> (Hepatitis A virus)	Fecal-oral: close personal contact, contaminated food	15-50 days; average 28-30 days	Fever, anorexia, fatigue, jaundice, abdominal pain, dark-brown urine; most children <6 years old not jaundiced or symptomatic	14 days before onset of symptoms to 7-10 days after jaundice onset; No jaundice: 10 days prior to 14 days after onset of symptoms	Exclude for 14 days after onset of symptoms or 10 days after onset of jaundice
<b>Pinworm infection</b> ( <i>Enterobius vermicularis</i> )	Fecal-oral: directly or indirectly from toys, bedding, toilets	1-2 months or longer from time of ingestion of eggs to adult worm reaching anal area	Anal and possibly vaginal itching	While eggs are present, eggs can remain infective 2-3 weeks in indoor environments	None, unless has diarrhea

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## Gastrointestinal (continued)

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
<i>Clostridium difficile</i> infection (CDI, <i>C. diff</i> )	Fecal-oral: person-to-person, environmental surfaces	Variable; 5 days after starting antibiotic treatment to 10 weeks following completion	Mild to moderate disease: watery diarrhea, low-grade fever, mild abdominal pain; recurrent or severe disease can occur	For the duration of the diarrheal illness	Exclude until asymptomatic for 48 hours

### Onsite Control and Prevention Measures

**For all diseases:** Good handwashing and hygiene; proper disposal of dirty diapers; proper disinfection of changing tables, toys, and food preparation areas; avoid potentially contaminated beverages, food, and water; divide food preparation and diapering responsibility among staff

**Diarrhea:** 3 or more loose stools in a 24-hour period; outbreaks of diarrhea in group settings are reportable to local health department

**Gastroenteritis-Bacterial:** Proper cooking/handling of meats and raw eggs; reptiles and live poultry should not be permitted in child care centers

***C. difficile*, *Cryptosporidium*, and *Norovirus*:** Alcohol-based hand hygiene products are not effective against these organisms; soap and water must be used

**Hepatitis A:** Consider Hep A vaccine for staff; exposed staff should not prepare meals for others

**Pinworms:** Frequent, good handwashing, particularly by infected child and staff assisting with toileting; keep fingernails clean and short; prevent fingers in mouth; bed linen and underclothing of infected child should be handled carefully, not shaken, and laundered promptly

**R** = Reportable to state and local health departments    **V** = Vaccine available to prevent illness    **\*Susceptible/At Risk** = Persons not immunized, with compromised immune systems, or pregnant    **\*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/index.htm>.



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