

# WISCONSIN CHILDHOOD COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

## Meningitis

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>Hib R/V</b> <i>(Haemophilus influenzae type b)</i> <b>Meningococcal disease R/V</b> <i>(Neisseria meningitidis)</i> <b>Pneumococcal disease R/V</b> <i>(Streptococcus pneumoniae)</i>	Direct contact with oral and respiratory secretions	Usually short, 2-4 days; 2-10 days, usually 3-4 days; Usually short, 1-4 days	May include: sudden onset of fever, headache, stiff neck, nausea, vomiting Rash and photophobia also common with <i>N. meningitidis</i>	7 days prior to onset until 24 hours after treatment begins	Exclude for at least 24 hours after appropriate antibiotic treatment begins
<b>Viral Meningitis</b> <i>(Usually enterovirus)</i>	Contact with droplets from nose, eyes, or mouth	3-6 days	May include: sudden onset of fever, headache, stiff neck, nausea, vomiting	From day before illness up to 2 weeks after onset	Exclude until fever resolved for 24 hours

### Onsite Control and Prevention Measures

**For All Diseases:** Good handwashing and hygiene; cover coughs and sneezes; void direct saliva contact and sharing drinks, utensils, and water bottles

**Hib bacteria:** Ensure vaccination of contacts under age 4 are up-to-date after exposure or treated with antibiotics

**Meningococcal meningitis:** Direct saliva contacts should receive antibiotic treatment immediately

**Pneumococcal meningitis:** Treatment of contacts is not necessary and not beneficial

**Viral meningitis:** Proper disinfection of surfaces such as changing tables with soap, water, and bleach-containing solution; treatment of contact not necessary, no specific treatment

**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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