Rashes and Skin Infections

Children with rashes should be considered infectious and assessed by their doctor.

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| . **Infection or complaint** | | **Recommended period to be kept away from school, nursery or childminders** | | **Comments** | |
| Athlete’s foot | | None | | Athlete’s foot is not a serious condition. Treatment is recommended | |
| Chickenpox | | Until all vesicles have crusted over | | *See: Vulnerable Children and Female Staff – Pregnancy* | |
| Cold sores, (Herpes simplex) | | None | | Avoid kissing and contact with the sores. Cold sores are generally mild and self-limiting | |
| German measles (rubella)\* | | Four days from onset of rash (as per “Green Book”) | | Preventable by immunisation (MMR x2 doses). *See: Female Staff – Pregnancy* | |
| Hand, foot and mouth | | None | | Contact your local HPT if a large number of children are affected. Exclusion may be considered in some circumstances | |
| Impetigo | | Until lesions are crusted and healed, or 48 hours after starting antibiotic treatment | | Antibiotic treatment speeds healing and reduces the infectious period | |
| Measles\* | | Four days from onset of rash | | Preventable by vaccination (MMR x2). *See: Vulnerable Children and Female Staff – Pregnancy* | |
| Molluscum contagiosum | | None | | A self-limiting condition | |
| Ringworm | | Exclusion not usually required | | Treatment is required | |
| Roseola (infantum) | | None | | None | |
| Scabies | | Child can return after first treatment | | Household and close contacts require treatment | |
| Scarlet fever\* | | Child can return 24 hours after starting appropriate antibiotic treatment | | Antibiotic treatment is recommended for the affected child | |
| Slapped cheek/fifth disease. Parvovirus B19 | None (once rash has developed) | | *See: Vulnerable Children and Female Staff – Pregnancy* | |
| Shingles | Exclude only if rash is weeping and cannot be covered | | Can cause chickenpox in those who are not immune, ie have not had chickenpox. It is spread by very close contact and touch. If further information is required, contact your local PHE centre. *See: Vulnerable Children and Female Staff – Pregnancy* | |
| Warts and verrucae | None | | Verrucae should be covered in swimming pools, gymnasiums and changing rooms | |