







WISCONSIN CHILDHOOD COMMUNICABLE DISEASES: RESPIRATORY

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
Influenza  (Flu, Influenza virus)	Inhalation of respiratory droplets	1–4 days	Fever ¹ , cough, nasal congestion, headache, body aches, fatigue	1 day prior to and up to 5–7 days after symptoms begin	Exclude until fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication
Pertussis   (Whooping cough, <i>Bordetella pertussis</i>)	Inhalation or direct contact of respiratory secretions	5–21 days; usually 7–10 days	Early cold-like signs or symptoms, coughing progressing to severe, often with “whoop,” vomiting possible, absent or minimal fever ¹ , most severe first 6 months after birth	7 days prior to and until 21 days after onset of cough; or 5 days after start of treatment	Exclude until after 5 days of appropriate antibiotic treatment; if no antibiotic treatment, exclude 21 days after cough onset
Respiratory Syncytial Virus  (RSV)	Inhalation or close contact with respiratory droplets or direct contact of eye, nose, or mouth discharges, or contaminated surfaces	2–8 days; usually 4–6 days	Runny nose, cough, sneezing, wheezing, fever ¹ , fatigue	Duration of illness; usually 3–8 days	Exclude until fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication
Other Viral Respiratory Illnesses or Respiratory Illness of Unknown Cause	Inhalation or direct contact of respiratory secretions	Variable	May include fever ¹ , cough, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat, headache, and fatigue	Variable	Exclude until fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication

Onsite Control and Prevention Measures

For all diseases: Handwashing and good personal hygiene including covering coughs and sneezes
Pertussis: Refer symptomatic individuals to health care provider for evaluation
Respiratory Syncytial Virus: Avoid sharing linens, toys

 = 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>

BUREAU OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

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