

DEX Sickness Exclusion Policy & Procedures

Downright Excellent [DEX] assumes that parents/carers will use common sense and consideration for others in the event of catching or coming into contact with infectious diseases. DEX has a policy of active exclusion. That is, we ask you not to come to DEX at all if your child is infectious and we may ask you to leave if you do.

Families are reminded that a) several children at DEX have severely compromised immune systems and b) women coming to DEX may be pregnant so, we ask everyone to be vigilant and responsible in responding to this policy.

The chart below sets out Downright Excellent's exclusion periods for children, parents/carers or team members who are ill and infectious. This is based on guidance from the Health Protection Agency with regards to exclusion periods and infection control. If we are aware that there are infectious diseases present at DEX these will be clearly displayed on our notice board and every effort made to contact all families so that signs and symptoms can be recognised at the earliest opportunity.

Illness / infection ** Notifiable Diseases	DEX Exclusion Period for Families & Team Members
Chicken Pox / Shingles	5 days from onset of rash or until spots have crusted over
Diarrhoea &/or Vomiting including Rotavirus / Norovirus / Gastroenteritis	48 hours from the last episode, if as a result of illness or infection
Flu	Until fully recovered and able to participate in therapy session
German Measles (Rubella)**	5 days from onset of rash
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted or healed
Measles**	5 days from onset of rash
Meningitis**	Until fully recovered and in accordance with the local Health Protection Unit's instructions
Mumps**	5 days from the onset of swollen glands
Ringworm	Until treatment has commenced
Scabies	Until treatment has commenced
Scarlet Fever**	5 days after commencing antibiotics
Slapped cheek** also known as Infectiosum or Fifth disease	We consider this notifiable within DEX because of the danger to foetuses. DEX will advise at the time of exclusion period if any.
Whooping cough	5 days from symptoms
No exclusion period	No exclusion period - but must be well enough to participate in SLT sessions
Cold sores (Herpes simplex)	None
Conjunctivitis	None (but if there is an outbreak we may consider exclusion)
Head Lice	None
Glandular Fever	None, however must be well enough to participate in SLT session
Hand, Foot Mouth Disease	None, however must be well enough to participate in SLT session
Threadworm	None
Tonsillitis	None, however must be well enough to participate in SLT session

Please note, this list is not exhaustive but contains the most common exclusions.

Parents and carers should always seek advice regarding specific symptoms from the NHS non-emergency helpline (call 111), their GP or Accident and Emergency department

Guidelines and procedures:

The above are exclusion periods adopted by Downright Excellent, however, families and team members are asked to be mindful of the weakened immune systems (immunocompromised) of many of the children when observing these minimum periods of exclusion.

Informing DEx of infection:

- If you or your child become ill whilst at Downright Excellent, please inform a member of the team immediately.
- If you or your child become ill and are diagnosed with a notifiable disease, indicated by a ** on the chart please text Beth at the earliest possible opportunity on **07930 281327**
- Follow any special guidelines to inform any others such as parents of very sick children.

How can YOU help prevent infection spreading?

You can help support infection control by following the guidance in this policy and encouraging your family to practise good personal hygiene:

- Using the hand sanitizers
- Regular hand washing with soap
- Covering mouths when coughing/sneezing and using a tissue where possible
- Disposing of tissues in appropriate rubbish bins (preferably with lids) promptly and carefully
- Cleaning hard surfaces e.g. door handles
- Making sure all children are encouraged and supported to follow the above.

Important information for pregnant mothers

There are a number of infections which can be harmful to the unborn baby. These include:

- Chicken Pox
- German Measles (Rubella)
- Measles
- Slapped Cheek syndrome

If you or your child have been at Downright Excellent when one of the above infections is present we advise you to see your GP/Midwife to check if you are immune and seek their professional medical advice.

Please inform DEx of any other information you would like to see included in this policy.

Updated & approved by DEx Board of Trustees 27th September 2018

This information will be updated annually



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