



28 January 2015

RE: CHILDHOOD RASHES INFORMATION SHEET

Most common diseases causing a rash in childhood are viral and usually the child is most infectious to others just before the rash is seen.

What can be the cause of the rash?

Many micro-organs can cause a measles like rash, including: rubella, streptococci and Paravirus B19. Fortunately the MMR vaccine has made actual measles very uncommon. Most often rashes are caused by one of a number of viruses and rarely make the child really unwell. The rash will only last a few days and prolonged exclusion from school is not necessary.

Blistering rashes: A rash which begins as small blisters quickly forming scabs and spreading all over the body is likely to be chickenpox. Impetigo is a slow spread of crusted spots originating from one area. Hand, foot and mouth is characterised by small blisters in the mouth, palms of the hand and soles of the feet, but nowhere else.

Rash	Recommended period to be absent from school	Comments
Chicken pox	5 – 6 days from onset of rash	Vulnerable children may be at risk. Pregnant women may be at risk if they are not immune.
German Measles	6 days from onset of rash	Potential risk to pregnant women.
Hand, foot and mouth	Our policy is 7 days from onset of rash.	Potential risk to pregnant women.
Impetigo	Until lesions are crusted and healed or 48hrs after commencement of antibiotic treatment.	
Measles	5 days from onset of rash	
Ringworm (circular rash)	None once treatment has started	
Roseola infantum	None, not infectious when rash is visible	
Scarlet fever	Can return 24hrs after antibiotic treatment	
Slapped cheek	None, not infectious when rash is visible.	Vulnerable children and pregnant women may be at risk.
Shingles	Exclude only if rash can't be covered	Vulnerable children and pregnant women may be at risk.
Scabies	Can return to school once treated	All family members should be treated as well and all clothes and bed linen washed

Kind Regards,
Kay Woodcock and Isabelle Vanderslagmolen

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