School Illness Policy

Policy Code: SCS A/013/20/09/17— *Revised to comply with DHA Regulations (Updated November 2025)*
Reviewed: January 2026 | Next Review: January 2027

1. Introduction

The school is committed to promoting and maintaining good health, hygiene, and wellbeing for all students. In accordance with Dubai Health Authority (DHA) School Health Regulations, the School actively monitors students for signs and symptoms of communicable and non-communicable illnesses, including but not limited to:

- Chickenpox
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella (German Measles)
- Meningitis

The aim of this policy is to reduce the risk of cross-infection and ensure a safe learning environment for all members of the school community.

2. Management of Illness at School

- If a student becomes unwell during the school day, the School Clinic will assess the student.
- Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately and requested to collect the student as soon as practicable.
- Students identified as unwell will be excluded from school based on DHA exclusion guidelines and clinical judgement.
- Each case will be assessed individually, and severity of symptoms may influence the period of exclusion.

3. Responsibilities of Parents/Guardians

Parents/guardians are expected to:

- **Keep children at home** if they show symptoms of illness, especially contagious conditions such as:
  - Chickenpox
  - Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease
  - Conjunctivitis
  - Measles
  - Mumps
  - Scarlet Fever
- Contact the School Clinic if unsure whether their child is fit to attend school.
- Inform the school of their child's illness and submit a medical note from a registered medical practitioner when required.
- Provide a medical certificate or prescription for absences of three (3) or more consecutive days to qualify as an authorised medical absence.
- Submit and maintain up-to-date vaccination records as required by DHA regulations.
- Inform the School Clinic if the child is:
  - Undergoing medical treatment
  - On antibiotics
  - Receiving regular or long-term therapy

4. Notification of Communicable Diseases

- As per DHA regulations, the School Clinic will notify parents if there are two (2) or more confirmed cases of the same communicable disease within the same year group.
- The School will maintain confidentiality while ensuring appropriate health precautions are followed

5. Exclusion Guidelines (Based on DHA School Health Regulations)

Disease / Condition	Approximate Incubation Period	Exclusion of Cases	Exclusion of Contacts
Chickenpox	13–17 days	Exclude until vesicles are dry or 10 days from rash onset	Not excluded
Conjunctivitis	Variable	Until eye discharge has ceased	Not excluded
Diphtheria	2–5 days	Until cultures are negative and medical clearance provided	Contacts excluded until medically cleared
Unspecified Fever	—	24 hours fever-free without medication	Not excluded
Giardiasis (Diarrhoea)	7–10 days	Until diarrhoea ceases or 24 hours symptom-free	Not excluded
Hepatitis A	15–50 days	One week after onset of jaundice or with medical clearance	Not excluded
Hepatitis B	45–180 days	Until recovery from acute illness	Not excluded
Hand, Foot & Mouth Disease	7–10 days	Until fever subsides and lesions heal	Not excluded
Impetigo	—	48 hours after antibiotics or lesions crusted	Not excluded
Measles	7–14 days	5 days after rash onset or medical clearance	Non-immunised contacts excluded
Meningococcal Infection	2–10 days	Until medical clearance provided	Household contacts excluded until treated (48 hrs)
Mumps	12–25 days	9 days after onset of swelling or until recovered	Not excluded
Molluscum Contagiosum	—	Lesions must be covered	Not excluded
Head Lice (Pediculosis)	—	Until treatment commenced	Contacts checked and treated if required
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	7–14 days	14 days after onset and medical clearance	Contacts excluded if not immunised
Poliomyelitis / AFP	3–35 days	Minimum 14 days and medical clearance	Not excluded
Rubella	16–18 days	5 days after rash onset	Not excluded
Scabies	2–6 weeks	Until treatment commenced	Not excluded
Shigellosis	1–4 days	Until diarrhoea ceases or 24 hours symptom-free	Not excluded
Streptococcal Infection / Scarlet Fever	1–3 days	48 hours after antibiotics	Not excluded
Trachoma	Variable	Until treatment commenced	Not excluded
Tuberculosis	4–12 weeks	Until certified non-infectious by DHA	Not excluded
Typhoid Fever	1–3 weeks	Until medical clearance provided	As advised by health authority
Unspecified Vomiting	—	24 hours after last episode	Not excluded
Warts / Verrucae	—	Must be covered in pools/gyms	Not excluded

6. Additional Notes

- This list is not exhaustive. Other illnesses may occur and will be managed according to DHA guidance.
- Consultation with the School Medical Team is required for all illness-related concerns.
- The School reserves the right to exclude students based on medical advice and public health considerations.

7. Reference

Dubai Health Authority – School Clinic Regulations
(Available via DHA official website)

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