# **Policy on Illness and Infectious Diseases**

## Illness and Infectious Diseases

**Children**

Monique’s is committed to the health and safety of all children and staff who attend and work here. It will sometimes be necessary to require a child who becomes unwell to be collected early from the nursery and kept at home until they are better.

Parents/carers will be notified immediately if their child has become ill and needs to go home. Unwell children will be comforted, kept safe and under close supervision until they are collected. If a child becomes ill outside nursery hours, the parents should notify the nursery as soon as possible.

*The nursery’s policy for sickness and diarrhoea is not to return to nursery for 48 hours after the last bout of sickness/ diarrhoea.*

We ask parents to keep their child away in cases of any contagious illness for example chicken pox, hand foot and mouth, conjunctivitis, until symptoms have cleared or they are no longer contagious. We ask the same of staff members.

If any infectious or communicable disease is detected on the nursery premises, the nursery will inform parents/carers personally in writing as soon as possible. The nursery is committed to sharing as much information as possible about the source of the disease and the steps being taken to remove it. Ofsted will also be informed of any infectious or communicable diseases discovered on the nursery’s premises, usually within 14 days.

**Staff**

If a member of staff becomes ill at work, they are to go home and return when better. If a staff member becomes ill outside of nursery then they should contact Gemma (or Sarah if Gemma is away) by 6.45am each working day they are ill.

*As with the children, it is nursery’s policy for staff not to return to nursery for 48 hours after the last bout of sickness/ diarrhoea.*

## Head lice

When a case of head lice is discovered at the nursery, the situation will be handled carefully and safely. The child concerned will not be isolated from other children, and there is no need for them to be excluded from activities at the nursery.

When the child concerned is collected, their parent/carer will be informed in a sensitive manner.

Other parents/carers will be informed as quickly as possible via e-mail and a notice will be written on the board. Any advice and/or guidance on treating head lice can be given if required.

Staff should check themselves regularly for lice and treat whenever necessary

## Minimum Exclusion Periods for Illness and Disease (*ref.* [*https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/789369/Exclusion\_table.pdf*](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/789369/Exclusion_table.pdf)*)*

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| **DISEASE** | **PERIOD OF EXCLUSION** |
| Chicken Pox | Until all vesicles have crusted over |
| Conjunctivitis | 24 hours or until the eyes have stopped ‘weeping’ |
| Diarrhoea | Exclude for 48 hours from the last episode of  diarrhoea |
| Diphtheria | Exclusion is essential. Always consult with the Public Health Agency |
| Flu (influenza) | Until recovered |
| Gastro-enteritis, food poisoning,  Salmonella and Dysentery | Exclude for 48 hours from the last episode of  diarrhoea |
| Glandular Fever | Until certified well |
| Hand, Foot and Mouth disease | None. |
| Hepatitis A | 7 days from onset of jaundice & when recovered |
| Hepatitis B | Until clinically well |
| High temperature | 24 hours |
| Impetigo | Until lesions are crusted and healed, or 48 hours after commencing antibiotic treatment |
| Infective hepatitis | 7 days from the onset |
| Measles | Four days from onset of rash |
| Meningitis | Until certified well |
| Mumps | 7 days minimum or until the swelling has subsided |
| Pediculosis (lice) | Until treatment has been given |
| Pertussis (Whooping cough) | 48 hours from commencing antibiotic  treatment, or 21 days from onset of illness if no  antibiotic treatment |
| Plantar warts | Should be treated and covered |
| Poliomyelitis | Until certified well |
| Ringworm of scalp | Exclusion not usually required |
| Ringworm of the body | Exclusion not usually required |
| Rubella (German Measles) | 4 days from onset of rash |
| Scabies | Child can return after first treatment |
| Scarlet fever and streptococcal  infection of the throat | Child can return 24 hours after commencing  appropriate antibiotic treatment |
| Tuberculosis | Until declared free from infection by a doctor |
| Typhoid fever | Until declared free from infection by a doctor |
| Warts (including Verrucae) | Exclusion not necessary. Sufferer should keep feet covered |

## List of Notifiable Diseases

Diseases notifiable (to Local Authority Proper Officers) under the Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010:

Acute encephalitis

Acute infectious hepatitis

Acute meningitis

Acute poliomyelitis

Anthrax

Botulism

Brucellosis

Cholera

Diphtheria

Enteric fever (typhoid or paratyphoid fever)

Food poisoning

Haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS)

Infectious bloody diarrhoea

Invasive group A streptococcal disease

Legionnaires’ Disease

Leprosy

Malaria

Measles

Meningococcal septicaemia

Mumps

Plague

Rabies

Rubella

SARS

Scarlet fever

Smallpox

Tetanus

Tuberculosis

Typhus

Viral haemorrhagic fever (VHF)

Whooping cough

Yellow fever

These and other diseases that may present significant risk to human health may be reported under “Other significant disease” category.