

# Communicable Illness

## Exclusion from School for Health Reasons

In accordance with The Texas Department of State Health Services a school can exclude a student from attendance who is suspected of having a communicable disease. Any child excluded for reason of communicable disease may be readmitted when free of symptoms, has been satisfactorily treated or submits a signed physician’s statement that he/she is not contagious as determined by the health authority.

### Texas Administrative Code

Handwashing is an effective method of reducing exposure to many communicable illnesses. There are simple things that can be done to keep yourselves and your children healthy. School nurses teach these precautions to our students but it is also helpful for parents to emphasize these points with their children.

- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze with the inside of your elbow.
- Avoid touching your eyes and nose.
- Wash your hands frequently. It is recommended that hands be washed for 15 to 20 seconds. That is about the same time it takes to sing “Happy Birthday” twice.
- When soap and water are not available, alcohol based disposable hand wipes or gel sanitizers may be used. You can find them in most supermarkets and drugstores.

## Communicable Disease Information

Chicken Pox	Conjunctivitis (Pink eye)
Coxsackie Virus (Hand/Foot/ Mouth Disease)	Fifth Disease
Gastroenteritis / Diarrhea	Hepatitis A
Impetigo	Influenza (Flu)
Meningitis	Pertussis (Whooping Cough)
Ringworm (Tinea)	Scabies
Strep Throat	West Nile Virus