



Infections in preschool – information for guardians

We can all help to reduce the spread of different illnesses in preschool. Here we present our recommendations for guardians on when their child should stay at home in connection with an illness.

Tell the staff about your child's symptoms

If your child is or has been ill, it can be helpful to tell the staff what symptoms your child has had. This can help them assess the extent of a possible spread of infection and detect outbreaks of illnesses.

Good general condition

A good general condition means that your child:

- is not affected by an infection and is feeling as usual
- is fever-free without having taken any fever-reducing medication
- is alert enough to take part in the preschool's activities.

Keep in mind that a child who seems alert at home may still not be able to take part in the preschool's usual activities. Should the opinions of the guardian and the staff differ, the professional assessment of the staff determines whether the child is alert enough to participate in the preschool's regular activities.

Fever

Children with a fever should stay home from preschool. They should be fever-free for at least 24 hours (without having taken fever-reducing medication). After that, their general condition is the deciding factor.

Cold (cough and runny nose)

Children with a slightly runny nose and/or mild cough can attend preschool if their general condition is otherwise good.

Head lice

Your child can return to preschool following treatment and examination with a lice comb to check that the treatment has been effective. We recommend that all

family members comb through their hair, but only those who have head lice need to be treated.

Hand, foot and mouth disease (Höstblåsor)

Children can return to preschool when they have been fever-free for 24 hours (without having taken fever-reducing medication) and if their general condition is good. This applies even if they still have a rash.

Gastroenteritis (vomiting and diarrhoea)

Children who have had gastroenteritis should be alert and completely healthy again, which usually takes at least a few days after the last day they displayed symptoms, such as vomiting, diarrhoea or fever. This means that children who have had gastroenteritis should remain at home and be symptom-free for 48 hours before returning to preschool.

Threadworms

Children who have threadworms may attend preschool. Start treatment as soon as possible. It is recommended that the entire family undergo two treatments, with a two week interval (in addition to taking other hygiene measures).

Impetigo

Children who have impetigo should stay at home until no new crusty patches appear and the sores have healed and dried. After this, the child's general condition determines when it can return to preschool.

Chickenpox

Children with chickenpox can return to preschool when no new blisters develop, when their existing blisters have dried and their general condition is good.

Conjunctivitis (Red eye)

Children who have conjunctivitis should not be at preschool if their eyes are filled with a sticky discharge and need to be cleaned several times a day. This applies even if their general condition otherwise is good. Children with mild symptoms who do not need care several times a day may attend preschool if their general condition otherwise is good.

Additional information and advice

Call telephone number 1177 or visit the website 1177.se if you have any questions or need health-related advice.

www.1177.se/en/other-languages/other-languages

This information was produced by the Public Health Agency of Sweden. The text is based on the guidance document 'Smitta i förskolan', which is intended for preschools.