

Temecula Valley Charter School

Illnesses, Communicable Disease Prevention and Control, and Illness Send Home Policy

Date: 4/16/2026

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to reduce the risk of transmission of communicable diseases within the school setting and to protect the health, safety, and well-being of students, staff, and the school community. TVCS is committed to implementing evidence-based practices for prevention, identification, and management of communicable diseases.

Audience

This policy applies to all students, staff, volunteers, and visitors at Temecula Valley Charter School

Definitions

- **Communicable Disease:** An illness caused by infectious agents that can be transmitted from one person to another, either directly or indirectly (e.g., ringworm, C. diff, influenza).
- **Exclusion:** Temporary removal of a student or staff member from school due to a health condition that poses a risk of transmission.
- **School Nurse:** A credentialed health professional responsible for student health services and communicable disease management.
- **Health Team and Administration:** A trained health clerk, a licensed health professional, or school employed administrative staff.

Policy Statement

TVCS recognizes that communicable diseases can impact student attendance, health, and academic performance. The school shall take appropriate measures to:

- Prevent and control the spread of infectious diseases
- Follow guidance from local and state public health authorities
- Maintain a safe and healthy school environment
- Support timely return to school when medically appropriate

Procedures

A. Identification and Reporting

- Parents/guardians are expected to notify the school if their child is diagnosed with a communicable disease. If a communicable disease is reported, see [Title 17, California Code of Regulations \(CCR\) §2500, §2593, §2641.5- 2643.20, and §2800-2812 Reportable Diseases and Conditions](#) list to identify if the disease needs to be reported to the local health department.
- Staff shall report suspected symptoms or cases to the school nurse or health clerk
- The school nurse or health clerk will assess reported cases and determine next steps in accordance with public health guidance, or follow board approved communicable disease policy.
- School nurse, health clerk, and/or administration to determine whether a student's symptoms need to be managed at home to prevent the spread of illness per the CDPH Guidance for Signs and Symptoms.

B. Assessment and Case Management

- The school nurse, health team, or administration will:
 - Evaluate symptoms and health history
 - Determine need for exclusion or referral to a healthcare provider
 - Develop a plan for safe participation at school if applicable

C. Exclusion and Return-to-School Guidelines

- Students or staff may be excluded from school when they:
 - Have symptoms that prevent participation in school activities
 - Pose a risk of transmission to others
- Return-to-school decisions will be based on:
 - Resolution of symptoms
 - Completion of treatment, if required
 - Guidance from a healthcare provider or public health authority
 - School policy in alignment with state and local health agencies

D. Infection Control Measures

The school will implement the following preventive strategies:

- Promote regular handwashing and respiratory hygiene
- Routine cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces
- Use of personal protective equipment (PPE) when appropriate
- Safe handling of bodily fluids
- Encouraging students and staff to stay home when ill

E. Communication and Confidentiality

- Health information will be kept confidential in accordance with applicable privacy laws (FERPA/HIPAA).

- The school may notify affected classrooms or groups of potential exposure while maintaining confidentiality.
- Educational information will be provided to families and staff as needed.

Compliance and Legal References

This policy aligns with:

- California Education Code
 - Education Code § 49213; Education Code § 49451
- California Department of Public Health

Review and Evaluation

This policy shall be reviewed annually or as needed based on updates in public health guidance or legal requirements.

Communicable Disease & Contagious Disease Prevention Policy.

Fever (100.4 or greater): May return to school when the fever went away in the night-without using fever reducing medication and is still gone in the morning AND other symptoms are improving and the child can participate comfortably in routine activities (California Department of Public Health, 2023)

Vomiting: Should be excluded if vomiting has occurred 2 or more times in the last 24 hours or accompanied with a fever. Also see **Guidance for Signs and Symptoms per the California Department of Public Health PDF for additional symptoms.** Can return to school if vomiting ends at night and the child is able to tolerate food or liquids the next morning. (California Department of Public Health, 2023)

Pink Eye (conjunctivitis): Child does not need to be sent home from school or excluded from school. Unless the school health office does not feel that the student is able to keep If symptoms do not improve after 5-6 days (without antibiotic use or with antibiotic use) recommend the child to be evaluated by a pediatrician. (California Department of Public Health, 2023)

C. diff (Clostridioides difficile) or other bacterial infection causing diarrhea: Typically requires exclusion if the individual has uncontrolled diarrhea; return when symptoms are resolved and hygiene can be maintained.

Head Lice (Pediculus Humanus Capitis): Students should not be excluded from the classroom or school. However, treatment needs to be highly encouraged prior to sending the student back to school. If head lice or nits are reported or found follow the follow recommendations by the CDPH:

- Inform the parent/caregiver by the end of the school day if lice are seen on child or infestation is suspected, and give information for treatment.
- Distribution of educational materials to parents/caregivers on head lice, nit combing, and treatment. o Sample materials include CDPH's Head Lice Flyer or Fact Sheet (available in English and Spanish). Parents/caregivers can also be directed to visit the CDPH Head Lice webpage for additional information (<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/pages/headlice.aspx>).
- Regardless if a child has received lice treatment, the student is permitted to be at school the following day

Rash/Skin condition:

- Can stay in school if the wound can be covered (if it is in an area that may be in contact with others). If oozing, open wound, or infection cannot be covered, then the student needs to be sent home.
- Any concern for chickenpox or measles need to be evaluated by a healthcare provider and contact local health department

- **Diagnosed conditions:** Follow advice of the healthcare provider first
 - Impetigo: Once treatment is started, may return to school
 - Ringworm: Once treatment is started, may return to school
 - Scabies: Once treatment is started, may return to school
 - Pinworms: Once treatment is started, may return to school

Ringworm: May remain in school if lesions are covered and treatment has begun, per nurse assessment.

Hand Foot and Mouth: See CDPH [Guidance and Return to School Recommendations](#)

(California Department of Public Health, 2023)

See “[Guidance for Signs and Symptoms per the California Department of Public Health](#)” for the following (and additional) guidance:

- Abdominal Pain/stomachache
- Cough/cold symptoms
- Diarrhea
- Difficult breathing/ noisy breathing
- Fever
- Earache
- Eye irritation, pink eye, or eye drainage
- Rash or itching
- Headache/ stiff/ painful neck
- Vomiting
- Sore throat

(California Department of Public Health, 2023)

References

California Department of Public Health. (2023, October 2). *Considerations when a child has symptoms of illness in child care or school.*

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Schools/SymptomGuidance.aspx>

California Department of Public Health. (2025). *Reportable diseases and conditions in California.*

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/ReportableDiseases.pdf>

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/SchoolGuidanceonHeadLice.pdf>