

Recommendation on sick leave duration for common childhood infections

Disease	Sick leave duration
Acute conjunctivitis	Until no abnormal secretion from the eyes
Bacillary dysentery *	Until diarrhoea ceases and at least 2 consecutive stool samples collected no less than 24 hours apart are tested negative for such bacteria (1 st stool sample has to be collected 48 hours after the completion of the antibiotic course)
Chickenpox *	About one week or until all vesicles have dried up
Cholera *	Until non-infection is confirmed (test is to be done on three stool samples collected at least 1 day apart following 48 hours after the completion of the antibiotic course)
Diphtheria *	Until non-infection is confirmed by negative result on sample culture test (test is to be done on two nasopharyngeal swabs collected at least 24 hours apart following 24 hours after the completion of the antibiotic course)
Hand, foot and mouth disease	Until all vesicles dry up or as advised by the doctor. If enterovirus 71 is confirmed to be the pathogen, take 2 more weeks of sick leave after all vesicles have dried up
Hepatitis A *	Until at least 1 week from the appearance of jaundice or as advised by the doctor
Measles *	4 days after the day of appearance of rash
Mumps *	5 days after the day of appearance of gland swelling
Rubella *	7 days after the day of appearance of rash
Scarlet fever *	Until fever down and 24 hours after starting of appropriate antibiotic
Tuberculosis *	As advised by the doctor
Typhoid fever *	Until at least three consecutive stool samples collected no less than 24 hours apart are tested negative for such bacteria (the first stool sample has to be collected 48 hours after the completion of the antibiotic course)
Viral gastroenteritis	Until 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting
Whooping cough *	5 days from starting the antibiotic course or as advised by the doctor

Note

1. The recommendation made above is based on the general infection period only. Other factors, such as the clinical conditions of the sick child, have to be considered as well. The attending doctor should exercise his / her professional judgment when making the final decision on the length of sick leave.
2. Diseases marked with asterisk (*) should be reported to the Centre for Health Protection as required by the law.