

Advice for Parents and other Persons having the Care and Custody

in accordance with § 34 para 5 P. 2 Infection Protection Act (IPA)



Region Hannover

Fachbereich Gesundheit
Infektionsschutz/Hygiene

Please read this leaflet carefully.

If your child has an **infectious disease** and attends school or other community establishments to which he or she is now to be admitted, he or she may infect other children, teachers, or caregivers. Furthermore, the defense mechanisms of newborns and children are especially weakened by infectious diseases and he or she might even catch additional **diseases** (with complications) in our establishment.

In order to prevent this, this **leaflet** aims to inform you about your obligations, appropriate measures and **the standard procedure in accordance with the Infection Protection Act**. As a rule, infectious diseases have nothing to do with a lack of cleanliness or carelessness. We therefore kindly request your **frankness and trustful cooperation**.

The law stipulates that your child is not allowed **to attend schools or other community establishments**

1. if he or she has fallen ill with a **serious** infection caused by diseases which are easily transmitted through low bacterial loads. This includes diphtheria, cholera, typhoid fever, diarrhoea through enterohäemorrhagic E. coli (EHEC), and active lung tuberculosis. These diseases generally occur in Germany only as isolated cases. (The law additionally also mentions viral haemorrhagic fever, the plague and poliomyelitis, but it is highly unlikely that these diseases would be transmitted in Germany)
2. in case of an **infectious childhood disease**, which in individual cases can take **a serious and complicated course**. These are meningitis through Haemophilus influenzae, impetigo contagiosa, pertussis, measles, meningococcal-infections, mumps, scabies, scarlet fever, hepatitis A and chicken-pox

3. in case of **head lice infestation**, a community establishment can only be attended after successful treatment
4. if your child has, or is suspected of having infectious gastroenteritis and is under six years of age.

The modes of transmission of the above listed diseases differ. Many types of diarrhoea and hepatitis A are so-called **“hand to mouth infections”**. They are transmitted due to insufficient hand hygiene, through contaminated food, and in rare cases by objects (towels, furniture and toys). Infections such as measles, mumps, chicken-pox and pertussis can be contracted through **droplet spread (e.g. coughing)**. Scabies, lice, and impetigo contagiosa are transmitted by **hair-skin or mucous contacts**. **This explains why** especially favourable conditions for transmission of the aforementioned diseases prevail in community establishments.

We therefore kindly request you to always obtain the **advice of your general practitioner (GP) or pediatrician** if your child has **seriously fallen ill** with high fever, exhaustion, repeated vomiting, diarrhea lasting longer than one day or other symptoms which cause concern.

Your doctor will inform you whether your child has or is suspected of having an illness which excludes attendance at the community establishment in accordance with the Infection Protection Act.

If a child has to stay at home or needs hospital treatment, **please inform us promptly** about the diagnosis so that we, together with the local Health Office, can take all **required measures to prevent the further spread** of the infectious disease.



Many infectious diseases can be transmitted before **typical symptoms** occur. This means that your child might already have infected children or caregivers around him or her by the time the first symptoms of disease appear. In such a case we have to **inform** the parents of other children of the existence of an infectious disease while keeping the identity of the infected child anonymous.

Sometimes children or adults contract infections without falling sick. In other cases, germs are excreted over an extended period of time in the stool or discharged in droplets in the air. This poses a risk of infection to playmates, class-mates or personnel. The Infection Protection Act therefore stipulates that the carriers of cholera, diphtheria, typhoid fever, EHEC-, paratyphus- and shigellosis bacteria are allowed to attend the establishment only on approval of the Health Office.

Also, in case a **family member** contracts a **serious or highly contagious disease**, other members of your household may excrete/discharge these organisms without

having fallen ill. In this case too, your child has to stay at home.

You can either be informed by the attending physician or your Health Office whether a “carrier” or a possibly infected child who has not fallen sick is allowed to attend a community establishment. In these two cases you are also required to inform us.

Immunization is available for **diphtheria, measles, mumps, (Rubella) polio, typhoid fever and hepatitis A**. If your child is immune through receipt of a vaccine, the Health Office can immediately lift the prohibition against attendance in individual cases. Please reflect that optimal immunization serves the individual as well as the general public.

Should you have any additional questions please contact your GP, pediatrician or your local Health Office. We would also be happy to be of assistance.