

# Public Health Act 2005: Contagious conditions Fact Sheet for Schools and Education and Care Services

## About the Public Health Act

The Public Health Act 2005 provides basic safeguards necessary to protect and promote the health of the Queensland public.

Chapter 5 of the Act Contagious Conditions aims to protect children in schools and education and care services (the service) by controlling the spread of certain contagious conditions that can make children very sick:

- chickenpox (varicella)
- coronavirus (COVID—19)
- diphtheria
- enterovirus 71
- gastroenteritis
- german measles (rubella)
- haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)
- hepatitis A
- influenza
- measles
- meningococcal disease
- poliomyelitis
- typhoid and paratyphoid
- tuberculosis
- whooping cough (pertussis)

Factsheets for each of these conditions can be found at the Health Conditions Directory website at <http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/Home>



## How are children protected by this legislation?

Children who are infected with a contagious condition can infect other children, therefore:

- children who have any of these conditions need to stay away from the service until they are well and not infectious
- depending on the disease, certain requirements may need to be met before a child can return to the service. For details on these requirements refer to the Queensland Health Time Out poster found at [www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/schools/prevention](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/public-health/schools/prevention)

## Authority to require a child to stay away from school or an education and care service

The person in charge of the service can require a parent or carer to keep a child away from the service if the child has or may have a contagious condition.

The person in charge of the service must consult with a doctor before taking this action.

A Queensland Health public health medical officer can direct the person in charge of the service to:

- require the parent or carer of a child who has or may have a contagious condition to keep the child away from the service until they no longer pose an infection risk or
- require a parent or carer of a child who is not fully vaccinated against measles to keep the child away from the service during a measles outbreak.

## Further information

For further information on the contagious conditions legislation in the *Public Health Act 2005* please refer to Information for Schools and Education and Care Services Chapter 5 Part 2

To find your local public health unit please go to

[www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/whole/html/inforce/2018-12-01/act-2005-048](http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/whole/html/inforce/2018-12-01/act-2005-048)

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