

Parent Letter Regarding Skin Infections after a Flood

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Several cases of skin conditions/skin infections have been identified in two of our schools. The affected students were seen in the health room by the school nurses and have been sent to their medical doctors for diagnosis and treatment. We are monitoring students closely for any signs and symptoms of skin conditions or infections.

Our Lead Nurse, Laura Tucker (843-546-0219/843-458-9420), has consulted with DHEC, and we are following DHEC's recommendations for enhanced cleaning procedures with bleach on contact surfaces in our schools. Specifically, a freshly prepared bleach solution is being used to clean gym and playground equipment. For cleaning the general environment, we are following routine procedures; this includes regular use of a freshly prepared solution of a commercially available cleaner, such as a detergent, detergent-disinfectant or chemical germicide, throughout the school.

DHEC also provided specific exclusion criteria for skin lesions (See Attachment).

Skin infections are spread by close contact, sharing personal items, and scratching which spreads the infection to other parts of the body. Therefore, we are emphasizing hand hygiene and discouraging students from sharing personal items.

Skin infections may require treatment with medication. Please take your child for medical consultation if you have any concerns or notice anything unusual. Your health care provider will determine if medication is needed for the specific condition.

If you have any questions, please contact the PeeDee Region Public Health Epidemiology Office at 843-915-8804.

Sincerely,

Randall Dozier, PhD

ATTACHMENT

Exclusion Criteria for skin diseases

Impetigo

If your child has dry, honey-colored crusty sores that can be covered, he will be sent home at the end of the school day. If the sores are weepy, oozing or wet, or cannot be covered and kept dry, the child will be sent home immediately.

He may return after receiving antibiotics for 24 hours, if the sores have stopped oozing and are starting to get smaller, or if the sores can be covered completely with a watertight dressing.

Ringworm

1st — 5th graders: If your child has **ringworm of the scalp**, he must remain out of school/childcare from the end of the day until he has begun treatment with a prescription oral antifungal medication.

1st — 5th graders: If your child has **ringworm of the body**, he does not have to be out of school/childcare as long as the affected area stays completely covered by clothing. However, we recommend that you seek medical treatment for your child.

Older students with **ringworm of the head or body** do not have to remain out of school unless they are spreading illness at school. However, we recommend that you seek medical treatment for your child.

Skin Infections from Staph or Strep (including MRSA), or Herpes Gladiatorum

Your child may attend school if the sores are covered with clothes or dressings, and if the drainage does not come through clothes or dressing.

Eczema

No exclusion if lesions can be covered unless lesions are weeping, crusty or show signs of secondary infection.