

Molluscum Contagiosum

Molluscum contagiosum is a viral disease that causes small flat circular lesions, which may be flesh coloured, white, translucent or yellow. Lesions will heal with time. This may take 6–24 months.

Precautions: Hand washing is important. Avoiding direct contact with lesions and covering lesions during communal activities at school can also prevent spread. Towels should not be shared.

Exclusion: Not necessary.

Mumps

Mumps causes fever and swelling of the salivary glands, particularly just in front of and below the ear. It may affect other organs such as the testes. Mumps can be spread by droplets from the nose and throat and by saliva. Prevention is by encouraging parents to ensure their children are vaccinated.

Precautions: Pupils should be appropriately immunised with two doses of the MMR vaccine. If a case occurs contact should be made with your local Department of Public Health who may advise contacting parents of pupils in the same class as the case to recommend vaccination of pupils who have not received two doses of the MMR vaccine. If there is evidence of spread of mumps within the school your local Department of Public Health may recommend more widespread action. All staff working in schools should ensure they are protected against mumps, either by vaccination or a history of mumps infection.

Frequent hand washing especially after contact with secretions from the nose or throat is important.

Exclusion: The case (staff or pupil) should be excluded for 5 days after the onset of swelling.

Resources: Useful information on mumps can be found at <http://www.hpsc.ie/hpsc/A-Z/VaccinePreventable/Mumps/>.