

When Can My Child Go Back to School / Creche ?

If your child has loose bowel motions, we must presume they still have Rotovirus unless their bowel motions have been checked by the laboratory. We would suggest that you keep your child at home or from their creche until their bowel motions return to normal.

Rotavirus is an illness which is notifiable to the Department of Health. A doctor working for the department may contact you about your child's illness. Public Health doctor



Please remember to wash your hands or use hand gel when visiting the Hospital



Rotavirus

Information for Patients, Parents and Carers

Infection Prevention and Control Team

Main Hospital Number

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Symptoms

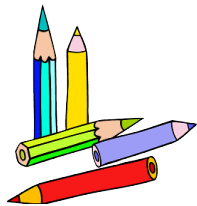
Rotavirus is a virus that can cause a fever (high temperature) together with vomiting and/or diarrhoea. The virus can cause some children to become more unwell than others. For these children, dehydration is the main cause of concern and requires prompt medical intervention by a GP or within a hospital. The duration and severity of symptoms vary from child to child.

Spread

Rotavirus is spread by the faecal-oral route. The virus lives on hard surfaces and toys. Washing hands often and environmental cleaning should reduce the risk of it spreading to others.

Reinfection can happen, however, symptoms tend to be less severe.

Most children will have been infected with rotavirus by the time they have reached 3 years of age.



Incubation Period

A child or adult can be infected with rotavirus for 1-3 days before they develop symptoms.

Diagnosis

Diagnosis is made by testing bowel movement samples in the Microbiology Laboratory. During normal working hours, the results may be available from the laboratory within a couple of hours.

Occasionally, initial results may be negative of rotavirus in the sample may not have reached detectable levels. The virus may not have reached levels that are detectable. Repeat samples may be required.



Treatment

This tends to be focused on the management of symptoms particularly prevention or correction of dehydration.

Isolation

In hospital children with a rotavirus infection need to be cared for away from other children to prevent the spread of the infection.

This is generally carried out in a single room when one becomes available. However, sometimes it is necessary to care for 2 or more children with this infection together in one ward area.

Isolation precautions are continued until symptoms of vomiting and diarrhoea have stopped for at least 48 hours.

Some children may have loose bowel motions for longer periods of time. However, once they are drinking enough fluids orally and have improved clinically, they will be allowed home.

