

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES, CAUSATIVE ORGANISMS, MODES OF TRANSMISSION, AND USUAL INCUBATION PERIODS

Disease	Organism	Mode of Transmission	Incubation Period
Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)	Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)	Sexual; percutaneous; perinatal	Median of 10 years
Ameobiasis	Entamoeba histolytica	Contaminated water	2–4 weeks
Anthrax	Bacillus anthracis	Airborne or contact	2–60 days
Chancroid	Haemophilus ducreyi	Sexual	3–5 days
Chickenpox	Varicella zoster	Airborne or contact	About 14 days
Cholera	Vibrio cholerae	Ingestion of water contaminated with human waste	A few hours to 5 days
Cryptococcosis	Cryptococcus neoformans	Probably by inhalation	Unknown
Cryptosporidiosis	Cryptosporidium species	Ingestion of contaminated water; direct contact with carrier	Probably 1–12 days
Cytomegalovirus (CMV) infection	Cytomegalovirus Campylobacter species	Transfusion and transplantation; sexual; perinatal	Highly variable: 3–8 weeks after transfusion, 3–12 weeks after delivery of newborn
Diarrheal disease (common causes)	Clostridium difficile	Ingestion of contaminated food Fecal–oral	3–5 days Variable; in part related to the influence of antibiotics 12–36 hours
	Salmonella species	Ingestion of contaminated food or drink	1–3 days
	Shigella species	Ingestion of contaminated food or drink; direct contact with carrier	1–3 days
	Yersinia species	Ingestion of contaminated food or drink; direct contact with carrier	
Ebola	Ebola virus	Contact with blood or body fluids	2–21 days
Gonorrhea	Neisseria gonorrhoeae	Sexual; perinatal	2–7 days

<b>Hand, foot, and mouth disease</b>	Coxsackievirus	Direct contact with nose and throat secretions and with feces of infected people	3–5 days
<b>Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS)</b>	Sin Nombre virus	Contact (direct or indirect) with rodents	Unclear
<b>Foodborne hepatitis</b>	Hepatitis A virus	Ingestion of contaminated food or drink; direct contact with carrier	15–50 days
<b>Bloodborne hepatitis</b>	Hepatitis E virus	Ingestion of contaminated food or drink; direct contact with carrier	Unclear
	Hepatitis B virus	Sexual; perinatal; percutaneous	45–160 days
	Hepatitis C virus	Sexual; perinatal; percutaneous	6–9 months
	Hepatitis D	Sexual; perinatal; percutaneous	Unclear
	Hepatitis G	Sexual; perinatal; percutaneous	Unclear
<b>Herpangina</b>	Coxsackievirus	Direct contact with nose and throat secretions and feces of infected people	3–5 days
<b>Herpes simplex</b>	Human herpesvirus 1 and 2	Contact with mucous membrane secretions	2–12 days
<b>Histoplasmosis</b>	Histoplasma capsulatum	Inhalation of airborne spores	5–18 days
<b>Hookworm disease</b>	Necator americanus; Ancylostoma duodenale	Contact with soil contaminated with human feces	A few weeks to many months
<b>Impetigo</b>	Staphylococcus aureus	Contact with <i>S. aureus</i> carrier	4–10 days
<b>Influenza</b>	Influenza virus A, B, or C	Droplet spread	24–72 hours
<b>Lassa fever</b>	Lassa virus	Contact with animal droppings; direct contact with blood or body fluids	7–21 days
<b>Legionnaires' disease</b>	Legionella pneumophila	Airborne from water source	2–10 days
<b>Listeriosis</b>	Listeria monocytogenes	Foodborne; perinatal	Unclear; probably 3–70 days
<b>Lyme disease</b>	Borrelia burgdorferi	Tick bite	14–23 days

<b>Lymphogranuloma venereum</b>	Chlamydia inguinale	Sexual	Weeks to years
<b>Malaria</b>	Plasmodium vivax; Plasmodium malariae; Plasmodium falciparum; Plasmodium ovale	Bite from <i>Anopheles</i> species mosquito	12–30 days
<b>Marburg hemorrhagic fever</b>	Marburg virus	Unknown route of transmission from animals to humans; person-to-person by droplets and direct contact	5–10 days
<b>Meningococcal meningitis or bacteremia</b>	Neisseria meningitidis	Contact with pharyngeal secretions; perhaps airborne	2–10 days
<b>Mononucleosis</b>	Epstein-Barr virus	Contact with pharyngeal secretions	4–6 weeks
<b>Mycobacterial diseases (nontuberculosis Mycobacterium species)</b>	Mycobacterium avium; Mycobacterium kansasii; Mycobacterium fortuitum; Mycobacterium goodii; Mycobacterium goodii; other Mycobacterium species	Variable; probably contact with soil, water, or other environmental source; none is person-to-person transmissible	Variable
<b>Mycoplasma pneumoniae pneumonia</b>	Mycoplasma pneumoniae	Droplet inhalation	14–21 days
<b>Norovirus</b>	Norovirus	Fecal–oral by food or water or by person-to-person spread	24–48 hours
<b>Pediculosis</b>	Pediculus humanus capitis (head louse); Phthirus pubis (crab louse)	Direct contact	1–2 weeks
<b>Pertussis (whooping cough)</b>	Bordetella pertussis	Contact with respiratory droplets	7–10 days
<b>Pinworm disease</b>	Enterobius vermicularis	Direct contact with egg contaminated articles	4- to 6-week life cycle; often takes months of infection before recognition
<b>Pneumocystis jirovecii pneumonia</b>	Pneumocystis jirovecii	Unknown; not transmitted person-to-person	Infants: 1–2 months; adults: unclear
<b>Pneumococcal pneumonia</b>	Streptococcus pneumoniae	Droplet spread	Probably 1–3 days
<b>Rabies</b>	Rabies virus	Bite from rabid animal	2–8 weeks
<b>Respiratory syncytial virus disease</b>	Respiratory syncytial virus	Self-inoculation by mouth or nose after contact with infectious respiratory secretions	3–7 days
<b>Ringworm</b>	Microsporum species; Trichophyton species	Direct and indirect contact with lesions	4–10 days

<b>Rocky mountain spotted fever</b>	Rickettsia rickettsii	Bite from infected tick	3–14 days
<b>Roseola infantum</b>	Human herpes virus 6	Saliva	10–15 days
<b>Rotavirus gastroenteritis</b>	Rotavirus	Fecal–oral route	About 48 hours
<b>Rubella</b>	Rubella virus	Droplet spread; direct contact	14–21 days
<b>Scabies</b>	Sarcoptes scabiei	Direct skin contact	2–6 weeks
<b>Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)</b>	SARS-associated coronavirus (SARS-CoV)	Droplet; direct contact; occasionally airborne	2–10 days
<b>Smallpox</b>	Variola major	Airborne and contact	7–14 days
<b>Syphilis</b>	Treponema pallidum	Sexual; perinatal	10 days to 10 weeks
<b>Tetanus</b>	Clostridium tetani	Puncture wound	4–21 days
<b>Trichinosis</b>	Trichinella spiralis	Ingestion of insufficiently cooked foods, especially pork and beef	10–14 days
<b>Tuberculosis</b>	Mycobacterium tuberculosis	Airborne	4–12 weeks to the formation of primary lesion
<b>West Nile virus</b>	West Nile virus	Bite of infected mosquitoes; from transfusions and transplants; perinatal	3–14 days

Source: Brunner and Suddarth Med-Surgical Nursing 12<sup>th</sup> Edition pp.2122-2123