

Contagious Illness and Exclusion from Child Care

Children who are ill or demonstrate symptoms of contagious illness are required to remain at home. Alternate arrangements for care will be the responsibility of the parent. Please notify the center if you suspect your child may be ill or if your child has been exposed to a contagious disease. The center will keep a record of illness and injuries.

It is our intention to maintain a healthy environment that prevents the spread of infection or illness to the extent possible. Staff will attend to symptoms of illness and will take appropriate action. Symptoms of illness (e.g. rash, fever, vomiting, diarrhea, draining eyes or ears, behavioral changes, etc.) may result in parent contact to pick up the child.

For the protection of all center children and adults, children will be **excluded** from care if one or more of the following occur:

- Child displays significant or atypical behavior changes OR child is unable to participate in regular activities due to pain, lethargy, drowsiness, or discomfort.
- Condition may jeopardize the health of other children
- Condition requires more care than staff can provide while attending to the needs of the other children
- Symptoms of acute or contagious illness including, but not limited to, the following:
 - Fever over 100° F, fever with behavioral changes; fever without use of medication
 - Persistent cough (especially cough that makes a child feel uncomfortable or disrupts the other children, difficulty breathing, wheezing, persistent crying, or significant irritability)
 - Ear pain, (including drainage from the ear.
 - Sores or Rash, (including honey-crusted sores around the nose or mouth; any wet or weeping sores; or a physician confirmed diagnosis of impetigo until 24 hours after treatment has started.
 - Conjunctivitis (pink eye) until properly diagnosed and treated if necessary. A doctor's note is required for a child with diagnosed pink eye to participate in care.
 - Sore throat (e.g. sore throat with a fever, rash, and/or feeling ill, that persists longer than 48 hours, or a physician confirmed diagnosis of strep throat until 24 hours after treatment has started.)
 - Diarrhea or loose stools (i.e. 2 or more stools above normal for that child in previous 24 hours; stool that cannot be contained or stool that spills out of underpants or diapers,
 - Vomiting (vomiting more than 2 times in the preceding 24 hours, especially if accompanied by fever, poor appetite or diarrhea.
 - Large amount of discolored nasal discharge, especially if the child has a fever or is feeling ill.
- Head lice (until first treatment is administered)
- Physician confirmed diagnosis of contagious illness until appropriate treatment is administered; including but not limited to:
 - Coxsackie virus (Hand Foot and Mouth disease) until sores have crusted over.
 - Strep throat
 - Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus
 - Impetigo
 - Fungal infections such as ringworm

Children may return to the childcare program when

- Child is symptom-free for 24 hours without medication or treatment (such as fever free without acetaminophen, no vomiting for 24 hours without special diet, etc.)
- Physician note indicates illness is no longer contagious and child is safe to remain in care
- Child is receiving appropriate medication or treatment for the specific illness or condition (e.g. antibiotic for 24 hours)

Please note that the Director or Assistant Director may refuse to accept any child for care that they feel needs medical assessment or cannot function in daily activities.

A written excuse from a physician may be required for exclusion from active outdoor play.