



CENTER ILLNESS GUIDELINES

Key criteria for exclusion of children who are ill:

- The illness prevents the child from participating in activities.
- The illness results in a need for care that is greater than the staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children.
- Poses a risk of spread of harmful disease to others.
- Decisions about the location for the care of the above children while waiting for a parent or guardian will be made on a case by case basis. If the child is allowed to remain in their regular care setting while awaiting pick up, the child should be separated from other children by at least 3 feet.

Temporary exclusion from child care is recommended for the following conditions:

- Fever over 101F orally or temporally AND behavioral changes or symptoms listed below. Any fever in a child under 2 months of age requires urgent evaluation. *May return to care after 24 hours with no fever and no fever reducing medication.*
- Diarrhea (watery or loose stools) that are not contained within a diaper or in toilet trained children if the diarrhea is causing soiled clothing. Exclusion is recommended if the stool frequency exceeds two or more abnormal stools above normal for that child. *May return after 24 hours of no abnormal stools.*
- Blood or mucous in stools.
- Vomiting more than 2 times in 24 hours unless determined to be due to a non-infectious cause. *May return after 24 hours of no vomiting.*
- Abdominal pain that continues for more than 2 hours or pain associated with fever or other signs of illness.
- Hand, foot, and mouth disease with fever and excessive drooling from mouth sores.
- Rash with fever or behavioral change until health provider determines it is noninfectious.
- Impetigo until treatment is started.
- Strep throat or other streptococcal infection until 24 hours after start of treatment.
- Head lice until after the first treatment (exclusion is not necessary if appropriate treatment is given). The On-Site Director can determine exclusion if the treatment plan is not followed and the condition worsens.
- Scabies, until after treatment has begun.
- Chickenpox, until all lesions are dried or crusted.

Infectious Diseases (Public Health determines protocol for all infectious diseases):

- Rubella
- Pertussis
- Mumps
- Measles
- Tuberculosis
- Hepatitis A
- COVID-19
- Any child determined by the local health department to be contributing to the transmission of illness during an outbreak.
- Children who have not been vaccinated may be excluded from child care if there is an outbreak of a vaccine preventable illness.

Conditions/symptoms that may not require exclusion include:

- Common colds and runny nose regardless of the color or type of nasal discharge.
- Cough without fever (unless an infection such as pertussis).
- Watery or yellow or crusted eye discharge without fever, eye pain or redness of the eye or eyelid.
- Fever without any signs of illness (except in infants less than 2 months of age).
- Rash without fever or behavioral change.
- Lice or nits (exclusion for treatment can be delayed until the end of the day).
- Ringworm (exclusion may be delayed until end of the day).
- Molluscum contagiosum (do not require exclusion or covering of the lesions).
- Thrush
- Fifth disease
- Hand, foot, and mouth disease (unless a fever is present or excessive drooling due to mouth sores).
- Methicillin resistant staph (MRSA) unless the lesions are oozing or draining and cannot be covered. Viral infections such as CMV, chronic hepatitis B, HIV

*Please share your child's diagnosis and any recommendations from a health care provider. This will help protect your child and the other children in the center.

Revised 5/2016 by Dr. McGuire, Clear Lake Pediatrics