

Daily Health Check

Child Illness and Exclusion Criteria

Exclusion means a child will not be able to attend Head Start or Early Head Start and should be kept at home to get better and/or to see a doctor before returning to school.

A child should be temporarily excluded from an education or child care setting when the child's illness causes one or more of the following:

- Prevents the child from participating comfortably in activities.
- A need for care that is greater than the staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children.
 - An acute change in behavior: lethargy, lack of responsiveness, irritability, persistent crying, difficulty breathing, or a quickly spreading rash.
- Fever **with** behavior change or other signs and symptoms in a child older than 2 months (e.g., sore throat, rash, vomiting, diarrhea).
- For infants younger than 2 months of age, a fever with or without a behavior change or other signs and symptoms.
- A child with a temperature elevated above normal is not necessarily an indication of a significant health problem. A fever is defined as a temperature of 100.4 or above.
- Temperature readings do not require adjustment for the location where the temperature is taken.

<https://nrckids.org/CFOC/Database/3.6.1>

<https://hhs.iowa.gov/media/2819/download?inline>

Illness	Exclude	Return to Child Care:
Abdominal pain	Exclude with persistent or intermittent pain with fever, dehydration, or other signs or symptoms.	
Allergies	Support Meeting Needed	*Please talk to your Family Development Specialist to arrange a support meeting and to be notified of needed documentation
Bed Bugs	No	
Common cold, runny nose, and cough	No exclusion regardless of color or consistency of nasal discharge.	
Chicken Pox	Yes.	When all blisters are crusted with no oozing (usually 6 days) and resolution of exclusion criteria.
Cytomegalovirus infection (CMV)	No exclusion required.	
Diarrhea (infectious)	Yes (there are special exclusion rules for Shigatoxin producing E.coli (STEC), shigellosis and cryptosporidiosis).	When diarrhea stops and health care provider and public health official states the child may return. For some infectious diarrheal illnesses, exclusion is needed until additional guidelines have been met and programs communicate with healthcare providers and health departments. Children who have germs in their stool but no symptoms do not need to be excluded, except when infected with Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC), Shigella, or Salmonella serotype Typhi.
Diarrhea (non-infectious)	Yes, if stool cannot be contained in the diaper, or if toileted child has 2 or more loose stools in 24 hours above the normal for that child, or blood in stool.	When diarrhea stops and resolution of exclusion criteria.
Eye drainage	No exclusion for watery, yellow or white discharge without fever, eye pain, or significant eyelid redness and swelling.	
Fever	Temperature above 100.4° F (38° C) (axillary, temporal, or oral) is a fever. Children over 4 months old without signs of illness do not need to be excluded.	Only take a child's temperature if the child seems ill.
Fifth Disease	No. Unless child meets other exclusion criteria.	If excluded due to presence of other exclusion criteria, resolution of exclusion criteria.
Hand, Foot and Mouth	No. Unless child meets other exclusion criteria. Or is	If excluded due to presence of other exclusion criteria, resolution of exclusion criteria.

	excessively drooling with mouth sores.	
Head Lice (Pediculosis)	No. Unless child meets other exclusion criteria.	Treatment of an active lice infestation may be delayed until the end of the day. Children do not need to miss school or child care due to head lice.
Hepatitis B virus, chronic	No exclusion required.	
HIV infection	No exclusion required.	
Impetigo	Yes, exclude at the end of the day if blisters can be covered. Cover skin lesions until the end of the day if there is no fever or changes in behavior. If medical treatment starts before returning the next day, no exclusion is needed.	After child has been seen by the doctor, after 24 hours on antibiotic, and blisters are covered.
Lice or nits	Treatment may start at the end of the day. If treatment starts before returning the next day, no exclusion needed.	Exclude only if the child has not had a medically approved treatment by the time they return.
Measles	Yes	Exclude until 4 days after onset of rash
Molluscum Contagiosum	No exclusion or covering of lesions is needed. Unless child meets other exclusion criteria.	Skin disease similar to warts. Do not share towels or clothing and use good hand hygiene.
Methicillin-resistant (MRSA) and methicillin-sensitive (MSSA) colonization	No. Unless child meets other exclusion criteria.	Wounds should be kept covered and gloves worn during bandage changes. Do not share towels or clothing and use good hand hygiene.
Mumps	Yes	Exclude until 5 days after onset of parotid (salivary) gland swelling.
Norovirus	Yes	With a release from the doctor, fever and diarrhea free for 24 hours and resolution of exclusion criteria.
Otitis Media (ear infection)	No. Unless child meets other exclusion criteria.	If excluded due to presence of other exclusion criteria, resolution of exclusion criteria.
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	Yes.	Child may return after 5 days of antibiotics and resolution of exclusion criteria.
Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis)	No. Unless child meets other exclusion criteria.	Child does not need to be excluded unless health care provider or public health official recommends exclusion. Resolution of all exclusion criteria
Rash without fever or behavior changes	No exclusion necessary. Exception: Call EMS (911) for children who have a new rash with rapidly spreading bruising or small blood spots under the skin.	

Respiratory illness (cough and cold symptoms) includes influenza, COVID-19, and RSV	Yes.	When child is fever free for 24 hours without use of a fever reducing medication AND respiratory symptoms are mild and improving.
Ringworm	No. Unless child meets other exclusion criteria.	Treatment of ringworm infection may be delayed to the end of the day. Child may be readmitted after treatment has begun. Cover lesion(s) if possible. Do not share clothing, bedding or personal items.
Roseola	No exclusion needed unless there is a fever and behavior changes.	
Rotavirus	Yes	With a release from the doctor, fever and diarrhea free for 24 hours and resolution of exclusion criteria.
Rubella	Yes	Exclude until 7 days after onset of rash.
Scabies	Treatment may be delayed until the end of the day. As long as treatment starts before returning the next day, no exclusion is needed.	
Strep Throat	Yes.	When resolution of exclusion criteria and after 24 hours of antibiotic.
Thrush	No exclusion needed. (The signs of thrush are white spots or patches in the mouth, cheeks, or gums.)	
Vomiting	Exclude if the child vomits two or more times within 24 hours, unless vomiting is due to a noncontagious/noninfectious cause and the child can stay hydrated and take part in activities. If a child with a recent head injury vomits, get emergency medical care.	When vomiting has resolved and resolution of exclusion criteria.

If a parent/guardian states that their child has an illness, ask: what are their symptoms and how long have they had them

For illnesses not listed, ask which doctor diagnosed the child and what their recommendations are for returning. Please notify your Health Team.