

## Exclusion of Sick Children

### Policy

Children experiencing a short-term illness should be excluded from care if they are not able to participate comfortably in all daily Head Start activities or if the signs/symptoms pose a risk to others at the site.

### Procedure

- Minnesota Child Care Center Licensing is used to determine which conditions indicate that a child should be excluded from care.
- A flyer outlining these conditions is posted clearly at each site and periodically sent to families throughout the year as a reminder.
- As children arrive at the site each day, staff conduct a quick visual assessment to check for obvious signs of illness.
- Staff continuously monitor the health of all children throughout the day, watching for signs of illness.
- An emergency contact will be called to pick up a child when staff determine that child:
  - Has signs/symptoms of being sick, such as a fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or behavior change; and/or,
  - Poses a risk of spreading of spreading illness to others at the site; and/or,
  - Doesn't feel well to the point of being unable to participate in all activities comfortably; and/or,
  - Requires a high need of care from staff that could jeopardize the safety of other children at the site.
- When there is a confirmed case of a certain contagious illness common in young children at a child care, an informational health alert is sent to each family at that site. The notice is written by the Health Professional and describes signs and symptoms of the illness and indicates when a child with that illness may return to school.
- The Health Professional provides information on other illnesses upon parent or staff request.
- No child will be excluded on a long-term basis. In a case where a child has any injury, health care need or a condition that requires special adaptations or poses a risk to others, staff and parents work together to develop an arrangement to best fit their needs while keeping the health and safety of others in mind.
- Any specialized care is arranged through coordination with other local agencies and/or school district and documented in a formal plan such as an IHP, IFSP, or IEP.

This policy complies with Head Start Performance Standard 45CFR Section 1304.22 and Minnesota Department of Human Services Child Care Center Licensing.

Approved by HAC 5-16-02

Approved by Policy Council on 3-22-2005

Revised and approved by Policy Council on 9-11-13

Revision Approved by Policy Council on 8-10-2016.