

GENERAL EXCLUSION GUIDELINES FOR ILL CHILDREN/STAFF

Certain symptoms in children may suggest the presence of a communicable disease. Excluding an ill child may decrease the spread of the disease to others in childcare and school settings. Recommended exclusion varies by the disease or infectious agent. Children with the symptoms listed below should be excluded from the childcare or school setting until symptoms improve; or a health care provider has determined that the child can return; or children can participate in routine activities without more staff supervision than usual.

NOTE: It is recommended that childcare/preschool providers and schools have policies that are clearly written for excluding sick children and staff. These policies should be placed in the student handbook or on the childcare or school website. Parents/guardians and staff should be given or directed to these resources at the beginning of each school year or when the child is enrolled or the staff member is hired. This will help prevent problems later when the child or staff member is ill.

Exclude children with any of the following:

Illness	Unable to participate in routine activities or needs more care than can be provided by the childcare/school staff.
Fever	An elevation of body temperature above normal and accompanied by behavior changes, stiff neck, difficulty breathing, rash, sore throat, and/or other signs or symptoms of illness; or is unable to participate in routine activities. Measure temperature before giving medications to reduce fever. <u>Axillary</u> (armpit) temperature: 100° F or higher <u>Oral</u> temperature: 101° F or higher <u>Rectal</u> temperature: 102° F or higher Ear temperatures are not recommended because of inconsistent and inaccurate results. Each manufacturer may have different temperature ranges, which makes setting standards difficult.
Signs/Symptoms of Possible Severe Illness	Child is unusually tired, has uncontrolled coughing, unexplained irritability, persistent crying, difficulty breathing, wheezing, or other unusual signs for the child. Exclude until a health care provider has done an evaluation to rule out severe illness.
Diarrhea	Diarrhea is defined as an increased number of stools compared with a child's normal pattern, along with decreased stool form and/or stools that are watery, bloody, or contain mucus. Exclude until 24 hours after diarrhea stops or follow specific disease exclusion if the pathogen is known; or until a medical exam indicates that it is not due to a communicable disease.
Vomiting	Child has vomited two or more times in the previous 24 hours. Exclude for 24 hours after last episode of vomiting, unless it is determined to be caused by a noncommunicable condition and the child is not in danger of dehydration.
Mouth Sores with Drooling	Exclude until a medical exam indicates the child may return or until sores have healed.



GENERAL EXCLUSION GUIDELINES FOR ILL CHILDREN/STAFF

Rash with Fever or Behavior Change

Exclude until a medical exam indicates these symptoms are not those of a communicable disease that requires exclusion.

Eye Drainage

No exclusion, unless the child has a fever or is not healthy enough to participate in routine activities. Antibiotics or a note from a health care provider are not required.

Unusual Color of Skin, Eyes, Stool, or Urine

Exclude until a medical exam indicates the child does not have hepatitis A. Symptoms of hepatitis A include yellow eyes or skin (jaundice), gray or white stools, or dark (tea or cola-colored) urine.

See following pages for specific disease exclusion guidelines for childcare settings and schools.

There are specific guidelines for “sick childcare” programs. See the Minnesota Department of Human Services licensing rules for those requirements.

For more information, call Hennepin County HSPHD-Epidemiology at (612) 543-5230 or call your local health department.

