

Child Illness Policy

Our Child Illness Policy is based upon the standards developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Bright Horizons understands that it is difficult for a parent/guardian to leave or miss work; therefore, it is suggested that alternative arrangements be made for occasions when children must remain at home or be picked up due to illness. Exclusion from the center is sometimes necessary to reduce the transmission of illness or because the center is not able to adequately meet the needs of the child. Mild illnesses are common among children and infections are often spread before the onset of any symptoms. **In these cases, we try to keep the children comfortable throughout the day, but will find it necessary to exclude them from the child care setting for the following reasons:**

- **Illness that prevents the child from participating comfortably in program activities.**
- **Illness that results in a greater need for care than our staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children.**
- **Illness that poses a risk of spreading harmful disease to others.**
- **Fever** (100° axillary (armpit), 101° orally, 102° aural/ear)* and behavior change or other signs and symptoms such as sore throat, rash, vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, irritability, constant crying, or difficulty breathing.
- **Diarrhea** — more watery stools or decreased form of stool that is not associated with change of diet. Exclusion is required for all diapered children whose stool is not contained in the diaper, and toilet-trained children if the diarrhea is causing "accidents." Diapered children with diarrhea will be excluded if the stool frequency exceeds two or more stools above normal for that child.
- **Blood or mucus in the stools** not explained by dietary change, medication, or hard stools, and/or uncontrolled, unformed stools that cannot be contained in a diaper/underwear or toilet. Special circumstances that require specific exclusion criteria include the following:
 - **Toxin-producing E. coli or Shigella infection**, until the diarrhea resolves and the test results of two stool cultures are negative for these organisms.
 - **Salmonella serotype Typhi infection**, until diarrhea resolves. In children younger than 5 years with Salmonella serotype Typhi, three negative stool cultures are required.
 - **Vomiting** more than two times in the previous 24 hours unless the vomiting is determined to be caused by a non-communicable condition and the child is not in danger of dehydration.
- **Mouth sores** with drooling unless the child's medical provider or local health department authority states that the child is noninfectious.
- **Abdominal pain** that continues for more than two hours or intermittent abdominal pain associated with fever, dehydration, or other signs of illness.
- **Rash with fever** or behavioral changes, until a medical provider has determined it is not a communicable disease.
- **Purulent conjunctivitis** (defined as pink or red conjunctiva with white or yellow eye discharge) until on antibiotics for 24 hours.
- **Impetigo** until 24 hours after treatment has been started.
- **Strep throat** (or other streptococcal infection) until 24 hours after treatment has been started.
- **Head lice** until after treatment and all nits are removed.
- **Rubella**, until six days after the rash appears.
- **Scabies** until 24 hours after treatment has been started.
- **Chicken pox**, until all lesions have dried or crusted (usually six days after onset of rash).
- **Pertussis** (whooping cough), until five days of appropriate antibiotics.
- **Mumps**, until five days after onset of parotid gland swelling.
- **Measles**, until four days after onset of rash.
- **Hepatitis A virus**, until one week after onset of illness or jaundice or as directed by the health department (if the child's symptoms are mild).
- **Tuberculosis**, until the child's medical provider or local health department states the child is on appropriate treatment and can return.
- **Any child determined by the local health department to be contributing to the transmission of illness during an outbreak.**



We ask that for your child's comfort and to reduce the risk of contagion, children be picked up within 1.5 hours of notification. Until then, your child will be kept comfortable and will continue to be observed for symptoms.

Children need to remain home for 24 hours without symptoms before returning to the program. This means that the child needs to remain out of the center for the remainder of the day he/she is sent home and the following day (if a child is sent home on Friday, he/she may return on Monday), unless the center receives a note from the child's medical provider stating that the child is not contagious and may return to the center. In the case of a (suspected) contagious disease, rash, or continuing symptoms, a note from the child's medical provider may be required before returning.

**Infants less than 4 months of age will be excluded if they have a fever of 100° axillary (armpit) or 100.4° aural (ear) and should receive medical attention as soon as possible.*

**Any child with a fever of 104° will be excluded and should receive medical attention as soon as possible. Any infant younger than 2 months with a fever should get urgent medical attention.*

▪ **Children who have been excluded may return when:**

- They are free of fever, vomiting, and diarrhea for a full 24 hours.
 - Readmission after diarrhea can occur when diapered children have their stool contained by the diaper (even if stools remain loose) and when toilet-trained children do not have toileting "accidents."
- They have been treated with an antibiotic for a full 24 hours.
- They are able to participate comfortably in all usual program activities, including outdoor time.
- They are free of open, oozing skin conditions and drooling (not related to teething) unless:
 - The child's medical provider signs a note stating that the child's condition is not contagious.
 - The involved areas can be covered by a bandage without seepage or drainage through the bandage.

If a child is excluded because of a reportable communicable disease, a note from the child's medical provider stating that the child is no longer contagious and may return is required.

The final decision whether to exclude a child from the program due to illness will be made by the child care center.

*Note: Notes allowing for a child's return to the center after an exclusion due to illness must originate from the child's medical provider. Unfortunately, **Bright Horizons®** cannot accept a signed doctor's note from a physician parent/guardian.*

