



## Exclusion Guidelines for Child Care

*Prepared by the Health Consultant Team at Child Care Aware® of North Dakota*

The parent or legal guardian should be notified immediately when a child has any sign or symptom that requires exclusion from the child care setting. The child care provider should ask the parents to consult with the child's health care provider. The child care provider should ask the parents to inform them of the advice received from the health care provider. **The child care provider/program can override a health care provider's advice.** If you have any questions regarding advice received, please contact your Child Care Health Consultant.

### **A child care setting should temporarily exclude a child or send the child home as soon as possible if one or more of the following conditions exist:**

- > The illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in activities as determined by the child care provider
- > The illness results in a greater need for care than the child care staff can provide; therefore, compromising the health and the safety of the other children as determined by the child care provider
- > The child has any of the following conditions:
  - Fever with behavior changes or other symptoms
    - Fever is defined as having a temperature of 100.4°F or higher taken by any method
    - Rectal temperatures are NOT recommended in child care settings
    - Oral temperatures should not be taken on children under 4 years old
    - Tympanic (ear) thermometers should not be used with children less than four months.
    - Infants younger than 3 months old with a fever above 100.4°F taken by any method requires exclusion and immediate medical attention
  - Symptoms and signs of possible severe illness such as lethargy, uncontrolled coughing, irritability or persistent crying, difficulty breathing, wheezing, or other unusual signs for the child.
  - Diarrhea
    - Stool is not contained in the diaper
    - Is causing "accidents" for toilet trained children
    - Stool frequency exceeds 2 or more stools above normal for the child
    - Children are allowed to return to child care once the diarrhea resolves with the exception of the following:
      - Salmonella, until 3 negative stool cultures
      - Shigella, until 2 negative stool cultures
      - E. Coli, until 2 negative stool cultures
  - Blood in stools, not explained by dietary change, medication, or hard stools
  - Vomiting illness
    - Two or more episodes in the previous 24 hours, unless caused by non-infectious condition (ex. reflux) and child remains hydrated
    - One episode if other symptoms are present or if child has recent history of a head injury
  - Abdominal pain
    - Persistent pain that continues more than 2 hours
    - Intermittent pain associated with fever or other signs or symptoms
  - Mouth sores with drooling (except for canker sores, thrush)
    - Unless a health care provider or health department official determines that the child is noninfectious

- Rash with fever or behavior change
  - Until a health care provider determines that these symptoms do not indicate an infectious disease
- Ringworm
  - From the end of the day until treatment is started
- Head lice
  - From the end of the day until after child is treated
- Scabies
  - From the end of the day until after child is treated
- Active Tuberculosis
  - Until a health care provider or health official gives written permission stating that the child is on appropriate therapy and can attend child care
- Impetigo
  - From the end of the day until treatment is started, as long as the lesions can be covered or have crusted
- Strep throat
  - Until child has been treated for 12 hours and is no longer running a fever
- Chickenpox
  - Until all sores have dried and crusted (usually 6 days after onset of rash and no new lesions have appeared for at least 24 hours)
- Pertussis (whooping cough)
  - Until 5 days of antibiotic treatment
- Mumps
  - Until 5 days after the onset of parotid gland swelling
- Hepatitis A virus
  - Until 1 week after onset of illness, jaundice, if the child's symptoms are mild, or as directed by the health department  
*NOTE: Protection of others in the group should be checked to be sure everyone who was exposed has received the vaccine or receives vaccine immediately.*
- Measles
  - Until 4 days after onset of rash
- Rubella
  - Until 7 days after onset of rash.
- Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)
  - If lesions cannot be covered
  - If child is running a fever
  - If child cannot participate in activities
- Influenza
  - Until fever free for 24 hours without taking fever reducing medication
- Covid-19
  - The confirmed case of COVID-19 must be excluded from child care for at least 10 calendar days from onset of symptoms and fever free for 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing medications) and have improvement of respiratory symptoms, whichever is longer. The NDDoH will provide just-in-time guidance to the child care and the case or case's parents.
- Any illness determined by the local health department to be contributing to the transmission of illness during an outbreak

*References:*

*CFOC, 4th Edition  
Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and in Schools, 4th Edition AAP, 2017  
FCPH, May 2016  
North Dakota Department of Health*

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