

Early Explorers Head Start/Early Head Start illness Exclusion Policy

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Policy

Parents and staff will be informed of Head Start and Early Head Start exclusion guidelines for ill children and adults upon enrollment and yearly upon re-enrollment, In order to insure the safety and health of our children and staff. Children or adults who have any of the following conditions will be excluded from the classroom, center, socialization/cluster and Home/Family visits until either the condition subsides, or we receive documentation from that individual's medical provider stating that they are no longer contagious.

1. An oral temperature over 101° or 100° if taken under the arm or in the ear.
2. A painful, red throat, even if no fever is present.
3. A deep, hacking cough.
4. **Difficulty breathing or untreated wheezing (calls or sees your doctor).**
5. An unexplained rash.
6. Vomiting (more than one time in last 24 hours).
7. Diarrhea (runny, watery or ***bloody stools**).
8. **Complaints of a stiff neck and headache with one or more of the above symptoms call or see your doctor.**
9. Thick green drainage from the nose along with sinus pressure, fever or tiredness.
10. Yellow discharge from the eyes.
11. **An unusual yellow coloring to the skin or eyes (calls or sees your doctor).**
12. Cuts or openings on the skin that are pus-filled or oozing (must be kept sores covered).
13. Lice or nits (ask your EHS or HS staff for assistance with this issue). Refer to **Lice policy**
14. A contagious disease. If you know or suspect your child has a contagious disease, please call your child's teacher/home visitor. (See your doctor to confirm the disease and receive medication/s if needed).
15. Your child's illness limits the child's comfortable participation in the activities.
16. The illness results in a need for greater care than can be provided by the staff without compromising the health and safety of the other children.

Parents who feel their child is too ill to participate in outdoor activities should be advised by staff to keep her/him home an extra day to insure a complete recovery. If a chronic health condition limits participation in outdoor activities, a plan will be developed in partnership with that child's healthcare provider. If staff is unsure about a child's condition or a child is brought in to the classroom that they suspect is ill, they should first discuss the issue with the parent. If the parent and staff are not in agreement about the need for exclusion from the classroom/center care, the staff should contact the Health Coordinator for advisement.

The Home Visitor/Family visitor or Care giver/Teacher should not come into your home if the enrolled child or a member in the household has chickenpox! Your child cannot attend socialization/cluster or classroom/center if they have chickenpox or someone in the household has chickenpox.

Your child's temperature should be normal (100 degrees Fahrenheit, axillary (temperature taken under the arm) for 24 hours before they attend socialization/cluster, center/classroom or have the home/family visit. If your child has been in contact with something contagious, you might want to use caution in exposing

them to others. We all know that childhood diseases make their rounds. It is impossible to avoid exposure, but we would like to try not to expose others if at all possible. The Home Visitor/Family Visitor will be visiting children's homes, so CAUTION would be advised.

If you are in doubt of an illness your child may have, please call the Head Start office and ask the Health Coordinator for more information. 1-800-568-5942 or 537-5409, Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. or the Early Head Start office at 1-888-568-5942 or 665-2880.

Incubation Period in Days for Common Childhood Illnesses:

1. Chickenpox – Incubation period is 10-17 days. Child must stay home from the appearance of first skin eruptions until all scabs are crusted over with no new drainage evident – usually 7 days.
2. German Measles – Incubation period is 14-21 days. Child must stay home 7 days from appearance of first skin eruptions.
3. Mumps – Incubation period is 14-21 days. Child must stay home 10-14 days depending on disappearance of swelling of glands.
4. Strap Throat – Incubation period is 2-5 days. Child requires **immediate** medical treatment. Child must stay home 24-36 hours after treatment is started or until fever and symptoms are gone.
5. Red Measles – Incubation period is 7-15 days. Child must stay home from first signs of fever or other symptoms to 7 days after appearance of skin eruptions.
6. Whooping Cough – Incubation period is 7-21 days. Child requires **immediate** medical attention. Child must stay home 7 days after onset of therapy.
7. Pinkeye – Incubation period is 3-5 days. Child must stay home for 24 hours after start of prescription medication or until eyes are clear.
8. Ringworm – Incubation period is 7-30 days. Child requires **immediate** medical treatment. Child must stay home until doctor gives written permission for return to Early Head Start/Head Start
9. Impetigo – Incubation period is 1-5 days. Child requires **immediate** medical treatment. Child must stay home until pustules are free from drainage.
10. Head lice – Incubation period is 1-15 days. Child's hair must be treated with lice killing shampoo. Child must stay home until trained professional states child is Nit Free.
11. Scabies – Incubation period is 6-48 hours. Child requires **immediate** medical treatment. Child must remain at home until treatment plus personal and house cleaning are completed.

I have reviewed the above policy and understand that I will not have my child participate in Head Start/Early Head Start functions if they are experiencing any type of symptoms mentioned above. I will make sure and notify my child's teacher/Caregiver or Home Visitor/Family Visitor, if he/she needs to miss a Head Start or Early Head Start function because of illness. I will come and pick up my child immediately if Head Start or Early Head Start center staff calls and states that my child has become ill in the classroom/center and needs to go home. I understand the above policy was developed to protect my child, other enrolled children, families and staff in Head Start/Early head Start.

Parent/guardian's Signature

Date