

# Communicable Disease



## **Intent statement**

Communicable diseases are illnesses that can be spread from one person to another. Infectious diseases that commonly occur in children are often communicable and may spread easily from person to person. This policy is intended to decrease the spread of communicable disease.

## **Procedure and Practice**

The spread of disease and illness can be reduced and even prevented by adhering to the procedures of other policies and personal care routines. Refer to the following:

- Handwashing for children and staff is the single most effective way to prevent the spread of germs (see Handwashing Procedure in *Caring for our children-National health and safety performance: Guidelines for out-of-home child care programs, Third Edition*) (CFOC)
  - Upon arrival at the center
  - After diapering or toileting children
  - After handling any body fluids (e.g., wiping noses or coughing and sneezing)
  - After cleaning up spills or objects contaminated with body fluids
  - Before and after applying ointments, giving medications, or giving first aid
  - Before and after preparing or eating food
  - After playing outside
  - Before and after using water tables or using moist items such as clay
  - After playing with pets
  - Whenever hands look or smell unclean
- Correct Diapering and Toileting Procedures reduce the spread of germs found in stool to hands, objects, and the environment (see Diapering Procedure in CFOC)
- Cleaning and Sanitizing reduce the presence of germs in the environment (see CCHC Cleaning and Sanitizing Policy)
- Food Safety reduce the spread of germs from improperly cooked and handled food
- Exclusion guidelines reduce the change of spreading germs from ill people to others (see CCHC Exclusion Policy)
- Universal Precautions recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are followed in handling all body fluids (see CCHC Universal Precautions Policy)
- Children and staff are taught to cough or sneeze into their sleeves rather than into their hands

During the course of an identified outbreak of any communicable disease at the facility, a child will be excluded if a health official suspects that the child is contributing to transmission of the

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illness in the facility. The child will be readmitted when the health official who made the initial determination decides the risk of transmission is no longer present.

In some cases, there is a legal obligation for the facility administrator to report known and suspected cases of communicable diseases to the local or state health department.

### **Applicable**

This policy applies to all staff, substitute staff, parents and volunteers in the child care setting.

### **Communication**

This policy will be reviewed with parents upon application and a summary copy will be included in the parent handbook. This policy will be reviewed with staff at orientation and annual staff training.

## **922 KAR 2:120. Child-child care center health and safety standards**

### **Section 3. General Requirements**

- (6) A staff person suspected of being infected with a communicable disease shall:
- (a) Not perform duties that may allow for the transmission of the disease until the infectious condition can no longer be transmitted; and
  - (b) Provide a statement from a health professional, if requested.

### **Section 7. First Aid and Medicine**

- (2) A child showing signs of an illness or condition that may be communicable shall not be admitted to the regular child care program.
- (3) If a child becomes ill while at the center:
- (a) The child shall be placed in a supervised area isolated from the rest of the children.
  - (b) The parent shall be contacted immediately, and arrangements shall be made to remove the child from the child-care center as soon as practicable.

### **References**

APHA & AAP (American Public Health Association & American Academy of Pediatrics). 1992. *Caring for our children-National health and safety performance: Guidelines for out-of-home child care programs, Third Edition* Washington DC: APHA. <http://nrc.uchsc.edu>

Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department (2008). *Infectious Diseases in Childcare Settings and Schools*. 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. [www.hennepin.us/childcaremanual](http://www.hennepin.us/childcaremanual)

Division of Regulated Child Care. 922KAR2:120: Child Care Health & Safety Standards <http://chfs.ky.gov/dcbs/dcc>

Kentucky Legislature. Kentucky Revised Statutes. <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/krs/titles.htm>

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**Reviewed by:**

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Director/Owner

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Board Member

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CCHC/Health Professional

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Staff Member

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Parent/Guardian

**Effective Date/Review Date**

This policy is effective immediately. It will be reviewed yearly by the center director.