Policy statement

Infections with or without illness are common in children. When children spend time in preschool or other facilities and are exposed to a large number of children for some time, infectious diseases spread. Children and adults who are infected, need to be away from the centre for the safety of others.

Schedule of Exclusion

The exclusion period is the minimum period to be away from the centre.

CHICKEN POX - Incubation period 14 days. Exclude until crusts have separated from blisters.

CONJUNCTIVITIS - Exclude until the discharge from eyes has stopped unless doctor has diagnosed as a non-infectious conjunctivitis.

COXACIE - Exclude until the spots of rash disappears.

DIARRHOEA - Exclude until there has not been a loose bowel motion for 24 hours. The Centre reserves the right to ask that a child be removed immediately after two consecutive diarrhea motions.

HEAD LICE - Exclude until effective treatment has been given and hair is free from nits and eggs.

HIGH TEMPERATURE - It is advisable to keep your child at home for a least 24 hours following any illness involving high temperature to ensure that the condition has abated before the child returns to the Centre.

INFECTIOUS HEPATITIS - Incubation period of 14-60 days. Exclude until a medical certificate of recovery is produced.

MEASLES - Incubation period of 10-14 days. Exclude 14 days from appearance of rash.

MENINGITIS - Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is produced.

MUMPS - Incubation period is 18 days. Exclude until symptoms have subsided.

RUBELLA (German Measles) - Incubation period 18 days. Exclude at least seven days from the appearance of the rash.

SCABIES - Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is produced.

SCARLET FEVER - Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is produced.

SCHOOL SORES - Exclude until sores are healed.

TINEA - Not excluded if lesions are on a part of body that can be covered.

THRUSH - Exclude until medical certificate of recovery is produced.

URTI (Upper Respiratory Tract Infection) - Probably the most common condition suffered by small children. Exclude until symptoms subside and while on medication.
VOMITING - The Centre reserves the right to request collection of a child who has vomited twice.

WHOOPING COUGH - Incubation period of 7-14 days. Exclude for four weeks or until medical certificate of recovery is produced.

Some diseases require a medical certificate before the child or adult can be readmitted to the centre. These diseases are diphtheria, hepatitis A, polio, tuberculosis, typhoid and paratyphoid.

Sources

- Staying Healthy in Childcare—Commonwealth Dept of Health & family Services
- National Health & Medical Research Council

NQS Standard: 2.1.4
National Regulations: 77, 85, 86, 88, 90, 91

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