

## *Plan for Managing Infectious Disease* 7.11(19)(a)3, 7.11(9)a-c

Staff will take extra special precautions when children who are ill are diagnosed at the Center and when children who are mildly ill remain at the Center.

Children who exhibit symptoms of the following types of infectious diseases, such as gastro-intestinal, respiratory and skin or direct contact infections, may be excluded from the Center if it is determined that any of the following exist:

- the illness prevents the child from participating in the program activities or from resting comfortably;
- the illness results in greater care need that the child care staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of the other children;
- the child has any of the following conditions: fever greater than 100.5, unusual lethargy, irritability, persistent crying, difficult breathing, or other signs of serious illness;
- diarrhea;
- vomiting two or more times in the previous 24 hours at home or once at the center;
- mouth sores, unless the physician states that the child is non-infectious;
- rash with a fever or behavior change until the physician has determined that the illness is not a communicable disease;
- purulent conjunctivitis (defined as pink or red conductive with white or yellow discharge, often with matted eyelids) until examined by a physician and approved for re-admission, with or without treatment;
- tuberculosis, until the child is non-infectious;
- impetigo, until 24 hours after treatment has started or all the sores are covered;
- head lice, free of all nits or scabies and free of all mites;
- strep infection, until 24 hours after treatment and the child has been without fever for 24 hours;
- many types of hepatitis are caused by viruses. The symptoms are so alike that blood tests are needed to tell them apart. In the U.S. the most common types of hepatitis are A, B, and C. Types B and C are spread through blood and other body fluids. Type A, is spread through contaminated food and water or stool (feces). Fact sheets are available from the state Department of Public health.  
[www.state.ma.us/dph](http://www.state.ma.us/dph)
- chicken pox, until last blister has healed over.

A child who has been excluded from child care may return after being evaluated by a physician, physician's assistant or nurse practitioner, and it has been determined that he/she is considered to pose no serious health risk to him or her or to the other children. Nevertheless, the center may make the final decision concerning the inclusion or exclusion of the child.

If a child has already been admitted to the Center and shows signs of illness (for example: a fever equal to or greater than 100.5 degrees by the oral or auxiliary route, a rash, reduced activity level, diarrhea, etc.), he/she will be offered their mat, cot, or other comfortable spot in which to lie down. If the child manifests any of the symptoms requiring exclusion (as listed above) or it is determined that it is in the best interests of the child that he/she be taken home, his/her parent will be contacted immediately and asked to pick the child up as soon as possible. They must be fever free for 24 hours without medication.

When a communicable disease has been introduced into the Center, parents will be notified immediately, and in writing by the Director. Whenever possible, information regarding the communicable disease shall be made available to parents. The Director shall consult the Child Care Health Manual for such information. DPH must be contacted when there is a reportable communicable disease in your program.

The program requires, on admission, a physician's certificate that each child has been successfully immunized in accordance with the Department of Public Health's recommended schedule. No child shall be required, under 102 CMR 7.00 to have any such immunization if his parent(s) object, in writing, on the grounds that it conflicts with their religious beliefs or if the child's physician submits documentation that such a procedure is contradicted. This must be maintained in the child's file. No child will be admitted into the program without the required documentation for immunizations. **(Childhood Lead screening must be done on all children; it is not considered an immunization)**. The program will maintain a list of the children who have documented exemptions from immunizations and these children will be excluded from attending when a vaccine preventable disease is introduced into the program. The Massachusetts Immunization Program provides free childhood vaccines. The toll free telephone number is 1-888 658-2850.