UnityPoint Health
Meriter

Children's Center

Guidelines for Excluding Ill Children from the Center

In order to protect your child, other children, and staff, the Parent Advisory Council has endorsed this set of guidelines on illness - guidelines based on recommendations from the City of Madison Department of Public Health and Meriter's Infection Control Program.

If at any time teachers feel a child is ill or contagious, families will be contacted to take the child home. This includes but is not limited to diarrhea, fever, and changes in the child's normal behavior (i.e., lethargy). The child may return to the center 24 hours after the symptoms disappear, and the child's behavior indicates that he or she is well enough to participate in regular classroom activities (indoor and outdoor). It is important that we consistently follow this guideline for the safety and health of all children and staff at the center. Center staff will observe children as they arrive to look for any signs of illness.

A child may not attend the center when he or she has any of the following symptoms:

1. A medication free (i.e., Tylenol) axillary temperature of 100 degrees or higher or temporal temperature of 101 degrees or higher.

2. Conjunctivitis, an eye infection commonly referred to as "pink eye." The eye is generally red with some burning and there is a thick yellow substance secreted.

3. Rashes you cannot identify or that haven't been diagnosed by a physician. If your child has a slight diaper rash or prickly heat, he or she can be brought to the center.

4. Impetigo of the skin (shows up as red pimples). Eventually become small vesicles surrounded by a reddened area. When the blister breaks, the surface is raw and weeping. Usually present in moist areas such as the creases of the neck, groin, and underarm, face, hands, legs, or edges of the diaper.

5. Diarrhea (two watery bowel movements within a 5-hour time frame that look significantly different than normal).

6. Vomiting (more than usual spitting up).

7. Severe cold with fever (see #1), sneezing and purulent nasal drainage.

8. A contagious disease requiring children to remain at home. Some of these are measles, mumps, chicken pox, roseola, and Fifth's disease.

9. Throat infections, either undiagnosed or without antibiotic treatment for 24 hours.

10. Children who are sick with bacterio-diarrheal, infectious hepatitis, infectious mononucleosis, tuberculosis, or strep or staph infections must have a doctor's permission to return to the center. Families must supply this information. If your child has a communicable disease including but not limited to: German measles, infectious hepatitis, measles, giardiasis, mumps, polio myelitis, ringworm, scarlet fever, whooping cough, diphtheria, and meningitis, families are responsible for reporting to the State Health Department. Children who have had pediculosis (head lice) shall be clear of all signs of contagiousness (eggs, as well as live lice), before returning to the center.

11. If your child is awaiting results of a diagnostic test or culture (i.e., strep) he or she may not be at the center.

12. An apparent illness with or without obvious symptoms. For example, your child looks or acts different. The child may exhibit unusual paleness, irritability, unusual fatigue, or lack of interest in daily activities. If your child has no fever or other overt symptoms of illness but displays such significant behavior changes and is clearly uncomfortable and not able to participate in activities, they will be sent home.

I understand that these guidelines will be followed, and that I will be required to pick my son/daughter up from Meriter Children's Center within an hour of notification, at the latest, if they begin to exhibit any of the above. I also understand that I will not be allowed to bring my son/daughter to school if they are exhibiting any of the above listed illnesses. Meriter Children's Center teachers and staff appreciate your support in keeping the children we care for as healthy as possible.

Family Name: _____ Signature: _____