

Exclusion Policy

In order to promote the health of the infants, toddlers, preschoolers, parents, and staff in Head Start, the following exclusion guidelines will be used, which apply to all enrolled families as well as to the BRHS staff. These guidelines are based on the recommendations in Caring for Our Children – National Health and Safety Performance Standards: Guidelines for Out-of-Home Child Care Programs, by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Public Health Association, State and Local Health Departments and on the recommendation of the Early Head Start / Head Start Health Services Advisory Committee.

Bear River Head Start/Early Head Start infants/toddlers/preschoolers, siblings, parents, and staff may not attend class, group activities, or participate in home visits if they have the following illnesses, except under the specified conditions:

Abdominal Pain: Severe pain should be evaluated by a healthcare provider ASAP.

Blood in Stools: not explained by dietary change, medication, or constipation

Chicken pox: Exclude until lesions have dried or crusted (approximately 1 week after onset of rash) or as directed by the Health Department.

Diarrhea uncontrolled: Defined as an increased number of stools compared to the normal pattern, with increased stool water and/or decreased form that is not contained by the diaper or toilet use. Blood/mucus in stool. Child shows signs of dehydration. Exclusion until diarrhea improves and is contained and no blood/mucus in stool. **Bloody diarrhea must be cleared for re-admission by a healthcare provider.**

Fever: 100.4 degrees F or greater orally, tympanically (ear) or touchless. Fever may be accompanied by behavioral change or other signs and symptoms (rash, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, cough, etc). Body temperature may become elevated from vigorous exercise. If the child cools off promptly, there is no need to send the child home.

- Exception is infants under 4 months with unexplained fever of 100.4 degrees F or greater orally. They may participate only if a health care provider gives written clearance.

Flu: Exclude child who has fever and feels unwell/behavior change, otherwise exclusion is not generally practical.

Hepatitis A virus: Exclude attendance until fever is gone and at least 1 week after onset of illness or jaundice when immune serum globulin has been given to appropriate children and staff or as directed by the health department. The ill person should be under a physician's care.

Impetigo: Exclude until lesions are healing (without weeping) and no new sores appear or covered with a bandage. Exclude from attendance until 24 hours after treatment has started.

Measles and Rubella: Exclude until 7 days after onset of the rash and report to the local health department. During an outbreak susceptible person excluded until immunized, or 2 weeks after rash onset of the last case of measles.

Meningitis: Exclude until child is cleared to return by a healthcare provider.

Mouth sores with drooling: unless a health care provider determines that the condition is not infectious.

Mumps: Exclude until 9 days after onset of parotid gland swelling first occurs or until swelling is gone. Report cases to the health department.

Pertussis (Whooping Cough): Exclude until 5 days of appropriate antibiotic treatment has been completed or as directed by the health department.

Purulent conjunctivitis ("Pink eye): Exclusion should be considered if there are two or

more children in the classroom with the same presentation, the children meet other exclusion criteria (fever with behavior change), or there is a recommendation by the health department or child's healthcare professional.

Rash with fever and behavior changes, exclude until health care provider determines that the condition is not a communicable disease.

Respiratory illness: Exclude only if respiratory distress symptoms or respiratory symptoms associated with a fever of 100.5 F oral.

Ringworm: Exclude until child begins treatment.

Scabies, head lice or other infestation: Get treatment after class and return the following day after treatment has begun. Exclude from attendance until after first treatment with medicated head lice products such as (*RID and other*).

Shingles: Exclude until the sores have crusted, unless clothing or a dressing can cover them.

Signs of possible severe illness: Exclusion will be assessed on a case by case situation after consulting the Health Specialist.

Strep throat or other streptococcal infection: Exclude until 24 hours after treatment has begun.

Tuberculosis: Exclude until a health care provider gives clearance.

Vomiting: Exclude if vomiting two or more times in the previous 24 hours, unless a health care provider determines that the illness is not communicable and the person is not in danger of dehydration.

Other communicable diseases will be assessed on a case by case situation after consulting the Health Specialist.

Additional reasons for exclusion are as follows:

- Prevents the child from participating comfortably in activities.
- Results in a need for care that is greater than the staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of the other children.
- Specific disease, symptom or condition.

COVID-19 Isolation vs Quarantine

- Staff and children who test positive or live in the household with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 will follow the direction of the Health Department in their area. They will be excluded from participating in classroom activities and will transition to "Center at Home" services until the period of isolation is complete and it is safe for them to return to Head Start facilities.
- Staff and children who are exposed to COVID-19 positive person, will work with the program Point Of Contact and local health department to quarantine at home for a period of 14 days.

If the child becomes sick at school with something listed on the exclusion policy, the parents are contacted and the child is excluded. The procedure is as follows:

- The legal guardian will be notified immediately of the child's illness and need for care. If legal guardian cannot be reached, the emergency phone numbers listed on the Child Release Form will be contacted. The teachers will fill out an Illness Report. A copy will be given to the Health Specialist and the parent/guardian.
- If a child comes to school with a parent/guardian/carpool, the child will be sent home immediately with that individual. An Illness Report will need to be filled out.
- If Head Start recommends treatment by a physician, a note from the doctor's office must be obtained stating that the child is being treated and that he/she is no longer contagious and it is okay for the child to return to school.

If a staff member becomes sick at school with something listed on the exclusion policy, the immediate supervisor will be notified and the staff member will follow exclusion guidelines as stated for children.

- Their supervisor will report to the Health and Wellness Coordinator.
- The day a communicable illness or parasite is discovered in our facility, the Health Specialist will inform parents in writing, giving each parent written information on the specific illness.
- Facility staff will ensure that the name of an ill child or staff person remain confidential.

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