

Bear River Head Start (PHS/EHS) Exclusion Policy

Revised 4/2025

In order to promote the health of infants, toddlers, preschoolers, parents, and staff in Head Start, the following exclusion guidelines will be used. This policy will apply to all enrolled families as well as 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 recommendations of the Early Head Start/Head Start Health Services Advisory Committee.

This Exclusion Policy does not describe symptoms of the illnesses for which students and staff will be excluded from the program. Please contact your health care provider when ill, or when questions arise concerning your health, or the health of your children and family.

Conditions Requiring Temporary Exclusion

Abdominal Pain (Severe):	Should be evaluated by a health care provider ASAP.
Abdominal Pain (Less Severe):	Pain that continues longer than 2 hours or intermittent pain associated with fever, dehydration or other signs or symptoms of illness.
Chickenpox (varicella)	Exclude until all lesions have dried or crusted (usually 6 days after onset of rash and no new lesions have appeared for at least 24 hours).
Covid-19	Exclude according to current CDC guidelines Follow CDC guidance: Respiratory Virus Guidance Follow local, state, territorial, or tribal public health guidance Children may return when: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respiratory symptoms are getting better for at least 24 hours AND <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No fever is present for 24 hours, and no fever reducing medications have been used for 24 hours
Diarrhea	Exclusion is needed for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diapered children whose stool is not contained in the diaper• Toilet-trained children when diarrhea causes “accidents” or when increased number of bowel movements are a risk for accidents and soiling of toileting areas• Children who have more than 2 stools per day above normal for that child while the child is in the program• Children whose stool contains blood or mucus Children may return when the stool is contained in the diaper, or when toilet-trained children no longer have accidents or when they have no more than 2 stools above what is usual for the child.

Diarrhea Cont.	For some infectious diarrheal illnesses, exclusion is needed until additional guidelines have been met and programs communicate with healthcare providers and health departments. Children who have germs in their stool but no symptoms do not need to be excluded, except when infected with Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC), Shigella, or Salmonella serotype Typhi.
Fever: 100.4°F or greater (From any site)	Exclude with a behavior change and other signs and symptoms (sore throat, rash, vomiting, diarrhea, cough, etc). Body temperature can be elevated by overheating caused by overdressing or a hot environment, or vigorous exercise. If the child cools off promptly, there is no need to send the child home. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exception is infants younger than 2 months (from any site) with unexplained fever of 100.4°F (by any method) with or without a behavior change or other signs and symptoms (eg. sore throat, rash, vomiting, diarrhea) requires exclusion and immediate medical attention. They may participate only if a health care provider gives written clearance.
Hepatitis A virus Infection	Exclude until 1 week after onset of illness or jaundice if the child's symptoms are mild or as directed by the health department. Note: Protection of the others in the group should be checked to be sure everyone who was exposed has received the vaccine or receives the vaccine immediately.
Impetigo	Exclusion is not needed before the end of the program day if impetigo lesions are covered. Let the parent or guardian know that day. Exclude only if the child has not been treated by the time they return.
Measles	Exclude until 4 days after onset of rash. Un-immunized people who are not vaccinated within 72 hours of the exposure should be excluded until at least 2 weeks after the onset of rash in the last case of measles in the group, or until cleared by the health department.
Meningitis (bacterial and viral)	Exclude until the child is cleared by a healthcare provider.
Mouth Sores	Exclude children who have sores with drooling that a child is unable to control. Or exclude children who are unable to participate due to symptoms related to the mouth sores.
Mumps	Exclude until 5 days after onset of parotid (salivary) gland swelling. Report cases to the health department. Exclude unvaccinated children until cleared by the health department.
Pertussis (Whooping cough)	Exclude until treated with appropriate antibiotic for 5 days, or 21 days from start of cough if untreated.

Rash w/fever and behavioral changes	Exclude until a health care provider has determined that the illness is not an infectious disease.
Rubella	Exclude until 7 days after the rash appears. Report cases to the local health department. Exclude exposed, unvaccinated children (children who have received less than 2 doses of the vaccine) until cleared by the health department.
Signs of possible severe illness	Will be assessed on a case by case situation after consulting the Health Specialist.
Skin Sores	Exclude if the child has sores on an exposed body surface that are leaking fluid and cannot be covered with a waterproof dressing.
Streptococcal pharyngitis (ie, strep throat)	Exclude until treated with appropriate antibiotic for 12 hours
Tuberculosis (Active)	Exclude until the healthcare provider or local health department decides the child is no longer infectious.
Vomiting	Exclude if the child vomits 2 or more times within 24 hours, unless vomiting is due to a non contagious/noninfectious cause and the child can stay hydrated and can participate in activities.
Additional reasons for exclusion are as follows:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prevents the child from participating comfortably in activities ➤ Results in a need for care that is greater than staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of the other children ➤ Poses a risk of spread of harmful diseases to others.

Conditions That Do Not Require Exclusion

Common Colds, runny nose and cough	No exclusion regardless of color or consistency of nasal discharge.
Cytomegalovirus-CMV	No exclusion required
Diarrhea	No exclusion if stool is contained in the diaper, there are no toileting accidents, and there are no more than 2 stools per day above the normal for that child.
Eye drainage	No exclusion for water, yellow or white discharge without fever, eye pain, or significant eyelid redness and swelling.
Fifth Disease	No exclusion for children who have normal immune systems and who do not have an underlying blood disorder like sickle cell disease

Hand, Food, Mouth	No exclusion unless the child has a fever with symptoms, mouth sores, and constant drooling, or if recommended by public health authorities to control an outbreak
Hepatitis B infection - Chronic	No exclusion required
HIV Infection	No exclusion required
Lice or Nits/Scabies	Caring for Our Children recommends that treatment may start at the end of the day. If treatment starts before returning the next day, no exclusion is needed. "No-nit" policies are not effective in controlling the spread of lice and are not recommended. It is recommended the condition is treated with medicated head lice products such as RID
Methicillin-resistant (MRSA) and methicillin-sensitive (MSSA) colonization	Exclusion is not required unless lesion and drainage cannot be covered and contained. Colonization is the presence of bacteria on the body without illness.
Molluscum contagiosum	No exclusion or covering of lesions is needed
Pinkeye (bacterial conjunctivitis)	Indicated by pink or red conjunctiva with white or yellow eye mucous drainage and matted eyelids after sleep. Exclusion should be considered if 2 or more children in a group (classroom) develop pink eye in the same period, the child meets other exclusion criteria (such as fever with behavior change), or there is a recommendation from the health department or the child's healthcare provider
Pinworms	No exclusion is needed per Bear River Health Department. If child is in diapers - staff must use universal precautions: gloves, proper handwashing
Rash without fever and behavioral changes	Exception: Call EMS (911) for rapidly spreading bruising, or small blood clots under the skin
Ringworm	Cover skin lesions before the end of the day. If medical treatment starts before returning the next day, no exclusion is needed
Roseola	No exclusion is needed unless there is a fever and behavioral changes
Thrush	No exclusion needed. (The signs of thrush are white spots or patches in the mouth, cheeks, or gums.)

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

- If the child becomes ill during the school day the parent/guardian will be notified immediately of the child's illness and need for care.
- If the parent/guardian cannot be reached, the emergency contacts listed on the child's release form will be notified.
 - Teachers will fill out an Illness Report
 - A copy will be given to the Health Specialist and the parent/guardian
- If a condition/illness is noted when the child arrives for school the child will be sent home immediately with that individual.
 - Teachers will fill out an Illness Report

- A copy will be given to the Health Specialist and the parent/guardian
- If the exclusion policy recommends treatment by a physician, a signed note from the doctor must be obtained stating that the child is being treated and that he/she is no longer contagious and it is safe for the child to return to school.
- The day a communicable illness is discovered in a facility, the Health Specialist will send written information to all parents informing them on the specific illness.
- Facility staff will ensure that the name of an ill child or staff person remains confidential.

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 the exclusion policy guidelines as stated for the child.

- The Health and Wellness Manager will be notified by their supervisor.

Isolation/ Quarantine

Details on isolation and quarantine are reflected in the Bear River Head Start COVID-19 protocols. The Bear River Head Start Exclusion Policy does not describe the symptoms for which students and staff will be excluded from participation in the program due to illness.