

Illness policy – taken from GCCS Health and Safety Manual

1. Cross-Contamination Policy and Procedures for Illness and Communicable diseases.

Where a staff member knows, or has reason to believe that a child may be suffering from signs and symptoms of illness or a communicable disease, the license holder must ensure that the child's parent removes the child from the program premises forthwith as per the Child Care Licensing Regulations.

Signs or symptoms of illness exhibited by a child include the child (a) vomiting, having a fever, diarrhea or a new or unexplained rash or cough, (b) requiring greater care and attention than can be provided without compromising the care of the other children in the program, or (c) having or displaying any other illness or symptom the staff member knows or believes may indicate that the child poses a health risk to persons on the program premises. (Alberta Child Care Licensing Regulation).

If a child is suspected of be suffering from signs and symptoms of illness or a communicable disease, a parent or guardian will be contacted to pick the child up immediately. As some illnesses are more contagious than others, Glenora Childcare will follow the guidelines set out by Alberta Health Services when deciding if a child can remain in care while being treated for a communicable illness; *a doctor's note may be required clearing them for return to the centre.*

The following are definite indicators that a child must be excluded from the child care centre as per Alberta Health Services:

- **Symptoms and signs of possible severe illness.** If a child is exhibiting the following behaviors; unusual lethargy, uncontrolled, new or unexplained cough, unusual irritability, persistent crying, difficult breathing or unexplained or uncontrolled wheezing, the child must be excluded until symptoms are resolved. The child's parent may also provide written notice from a physician indicating the child does not pose a health risk to persons on the program premises.
- **Temperature.** According to the Canadian Pediatric Society, normal temperatures in children are:
Rectal: 36.6-38.0°C (97.9-100.4°F)
Mouth: 35.5-37.5°C (95.9-99.5°F)
Underarm: 36.5-37.5°C (97.7-99.5°)
Ear (not recommended in infants): 35.8-38.0°C (96.4-100.4°F)
GCCS uses an ear thermometer as advised by Alberta Health Services. If a child has a fever they must be excluded. The child's parent may also provide written notice from a physician indicating the child does not pose a health risk to persons on the program premises.
If children are sent home with a fever for two consecutive days the child *requires* written notice from a physician to return to the centre.
- **Communicable illness.** Children are to be excluded from the centre based on the illness. The Executive Director will confirm with Alberta Health Services to assess when the child may return. The child's parent may also provide written notice from a physician indicating the child does not pose a health risk to persons on the program premises.
- **New or unexplained rash.** If a child presents with a new or unexplained rash the child must be excluded until symptoms are resolved. The child's parent may also provide written notice from a physician indicating the child does not pose a health risk to persons on the program premises.

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- **Purulent conjunctivitis** (pink or red eye). Child must be excluded until determined by the child's physician or Public Health that the symptoms are bacterial or viral. In either case the child must be symptom free before returning to the centre.
- **Vomiting.** Children who experience an episode of vomiting that is unusual to the child must be excluded. Children must be clear of symptoms for 24 hours before returning to centre. The child's parent may also provide written notice from a physician indicating the child does not pose a health risk to persons on the program premises.
- **Diarrhea.** Is defined as frequent, watery stools. Children who experience an episode of diarrhea that is unusual to the child must be excluded. Child must be clear of symptoms for 24 hours before returning to centre. The child's parent may also provide written notice from a physician indicating the child does not pose a health risk to persons on the program premises.
- **Mouth sores with drooling.** Children must be excluded until determined by a physician that the symptoms are non-infectious. The child's parent may also provide written notice from a physician indicating the child does not pose a health risk to persons on the program premises.
- **Scabies, head lice or other infestation.** Children must be excluded until appropriate treatment has been completed. In the case of head lice, children must be clear of **all eggs prior to returning to the program.** Children will be inspected and cleared by staff (in a washroom or other more private location when possible), with the parent present, prior to returning to the program.
- **The child is unable to participate in the full daily program, indoors and outdoors due to illness.**

It is important for children to go home when they are sick to restrict the amount of cross-contamination in the centre. As per the **Memorandum of Agreement** between Glenora Child Care Society and the parent, signed upon registration; "Parents shall not deliver children who are ill to the Society's premises, and shall immediately upon being requested to do so by the Director, pick up or make arrangements to have ill children picked up."

GCCS will take the following steps when a child becomes ill while attending the program:

1. According to regulations if a child is sick he/she is to be kept as far away as practical from the other children and directly supervised by a primary staff member. If the Executive Director is on the premises the child may stay in their office or staff may find a quiet spot in the room so the child may lay down and be away from the other children.
2. Parents will be contacted. If the parent cannot be reached within 30 minutes of the child becoming ill the centre will then call the families emergency contacts.
3. The centre will allow up to 90 minutes, from first contact with the parent or emergency contact, for the child to be picked up. The Executive director may give parents more time depending on the circumstance. If parents have not arrived to pick up their child within the allotted time frame the centre will call the families emergency contacts.

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If parents are persistently negligent in picking up their child(ren) when being requested to do so, the Society shall give a warning in written form. The Society defines persistently negligent as the parent not coming within the allotted time frame when contacted by the centre more than twice in a six-month period. Should the parents after such written warning continue to be negligent in picking up their child(ren) when requested to do so, the Memorandum of Agreement may be cancelled without notice resulting in a cancellation of child care services.

Staff are also encouraged to keep themselves healthy and to remain at home if they are ill and could transfer a communicable disease to other staff or children.