



**Guidelines for Exclusion of Children (or Staff Working With Children) Who Are Ill  
As Recommended in *Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety  
Standards: Guidelines for Out-of-Home Child Care Programs***

When formulating exclusion policies, it is reasonable to focus on the needs and behavior of the ill child and the ability of staff in the out-of-home child care setting to meet those needs without compromising the care of other children in the group

Children with fever are managed differently in child care. The presence of fever alone has little relevance to the spread of disease and may not preclude a child's participation in child care. A small proportion of childhood illness with fever is caused by life-threatening diseases, such as meningitis. It is unreasonable and inappropriate for child care staff to attempt to determine which illnesses with fevers may be serious. The child's parents or legal guardians, with the help of their child's health care provider, are responsible for these decisions. Parents should be notified anytime a child has a fever.

A facility should not deny admission to or send home a child because of illness unless one or more of the following conditions exists. The parent, legal guardian, or other person authorized by the parent should be notified immediately when a child has a sign or symptom requiring exclusion from the facility, as described below:

**The illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in facility activities;**

**The illness results in a greater care need than the child care staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of the other children; or**

**The child has any of the following conditions:**

- 1) Temperature: Oral temperature 101 degrees or greater; rectal temperature 102 degrees or greater; axillary (armpit) temperature 100 degrees or greater; accompanied by behavior changes or other signs or symptoms of illness until medical evaluation indicates inclusion in the facility. Oral temperature should not be taken on children younger than 4 years (or younger than 3 years if a digital thermometer is used). Rectal temperature should be taken only by persons with specific health training.
- 2) Symptoms and signs of possible severe illness (such as unusual lethargy, uncontrolled coughing, irritability, persistent crying, difficult breathing, wheezing, or other unusual signs) until medical evaluation allows inclusion.
- 3) Uncontrolled diarrhea, that is, increased number of stools, increased stool water, and/or decreased form that is not contained by the diaper until diarrhea stops.
- 4) Vomiting illness (two or more episodes of vomiting in the previous 24 hours) until vomiting resolves or until a health care provider determines the illness to be noncommunicable, and the child is not in danger of dehydration.
- 5) Mouth sores with drooling, unless a health care provider or health official determines the condition is noninfectious.
- 6) Rash with fever or behavior change, until a health care provider determines that these symptoms do not indicate a communicable disease.
- 7) Purulent conjunctivitis (defined as pink or red conjunctiva with white or yellow eye discharge), until 24 hours after treatment has been initiated.
- 8) Untreated scabies, head lice, or other infestation.
- 9) Untreated Tuberculosis, until a health care provider or health official states that the child can attend child care.
- 10) Known contagious diseases while still in the communicable stage.