

# SICK CHILD POLICY

*(Recommendations from CDC, MD DHHR & Montgomery County Health Dept regarding exclusion with temperature of 100° F or above.)*

**We need your help in keeping the outbreak of illness to a minimum.** Our sick child policy is based on Montgomery County Health Department guidelines. Certain symptoms in children may suggest the presence of a communicable disease. Children who have symptoms listed below should be excluded from the child care setting until:

1. A health care provider notes the child may return to the program without danger to himself or other children and staff.
2. The symptoms have been gone for a minimum of 24 hours.
3. The child is well enough to participate fully in the child care's daily routine.

If a child has any of the following signs and symptoms of illness, they should be kept/sent home from child care. If symptoms are severe or persist, parents should contact their private source of medical care.

## Appearance/Behavior

Child looks or acts differently than usual: unusually tired, pale, loss of appetite, confused, irritable, difficult to awaken plus has an **oral temperature of 100° F** or above.

## Cough

See respiratory symptoms below.

## Diarrhea

An increased number and/or abnormally loose stools in the previous 24 hours.

## Eye/Nose Drainage

Red or pink appearing eyes/thick mucus or pus draining from the eye or nose.

## Fever

Remember that temperatures taken under the arm are one degree lower than oral temperatures. Therefore, **one degree Fahrenheit will be added to the armpit reading.** Any child with **an oral temperature of 100° F or above** is considered to have a significant fever. Children should not return to child care until they have been fever free for 24 hours.

## Respiratory Symptoms

Difficult or rapid breathing, severe cough, high-pitched croupy, wheezing or whooping sound after cough.

## Skin Problems

Undiagnosed skin rashes are possibly contagious. Be alert to rashes or sores with crusty, yellow or green drainage. Rashes with fevers can be serious and need to be discussed with the child's health care provider.

## Sore Throat/Earache

Sore throat and/or difficulty swallowing, especially when fever or swollen glands in the neck are present.

## Unusual color

Eyes or skin – yellow (jaundice)

Stool – gray or white

Urine- dark, tea colored

The above symptoms can be found in hepatitis and should be evaluated by the child's health care provider.

## Nausea/Vomiting

Two or more episodes of vomiting within the previous 24 hours.

**Sick Child Policy continued:** Diarrhea, vomiting, undiagnosed rashes, fever, pallor, irritability, excessive sleepiness and change of behavior are signs of illness that must be noted. Parents will be notified when a child has a sign or symptom requiring exclusion from the facility as described below:

- A. The illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in facility activities
- B. The illness requires more care than the child care staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of the other children or
- C. The child has any of the following conditions:
  - 1) Temperature: Oral 100°F or greater; axillary (armpit) 99°F or greater; accompanied by behavior changes or other signs or symptoms of illness.
  - 2) Signs and symptoms of possible severe illness (such as unusual lethargy, uncontrolled coughing, irritability, persistent crying, difficult breathing or wheezing)
  - 3) Uncontrolled diarrhea, that is, increased number of stools, increased stool water, and/or decreased form that is not contained by the diaper.
  - 4) Vomiting illness: two or more episodes of vomiting in the previous 24 hours.
  - 5) Rash with fever or behavior change.
  - 6) Identified disease that requires exclusion.

**When a child is sent home, he/she should remain at home for a minimum of 24 hours or submit a written statement, from the health care provider, approving the return to the program.** Parents are advised to arrange a plan for backup care when the child is ill.

If parents cannot be reached, the emergency contact will be called. A parent/legal guardian or authorized designee should pick up the child within an hour. If the child's condition warrants immediate medical attention, 911 will be called.

The director may not re-admit a child to the center after an absence of three or more days due to illness, without first receiving a written statement from the parent or physician stating that the child may return to a regular schedule. If a child sustains a serious illness or injury or is hospitalized for any reason, a doctor's readmit certificate is required.

### **MEDICATION**

**MSDE Programs- Medication will be administered to children within guidelines of Maryland law.**

**All CCA programs will administer medications within the guidelines of Maryland law and according to the policies outlined below.**

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Please Read~**

**As a health and safety precaution and in compliance with regulations, Academy requires that a physician and parent sign and fully complete a DHR Medication Order Form giving the Center permission to administer any medication. This applies to oral, topical and over the counter medicines. Sun block and lip moisturizers are excluded from this requirement. If your child needs to keep medication at the center for emergencies, your child's doctor must complete a standing order with appropriate instructions. Make certain that the medication order form matches the container label. Pay special attention to brand or generic names and dosage amounts.**

Emergency injections of epinephrine will be administered by non-health professionals according to the DHR Medication Order Form completed by a physician. Parents are required to teach staff how to give these injections. For this reason, only pre-measured doses of epinephrine may be given. Academy staff members are not health professionals and therefore can not observe for the development of symptoms before giving the injection.

### **IMMUNIZATIONS**

**All children must be fully immunized and records on file at the center prior to enrollment. It is the parent's responsibility to provide ongoing documentation of compliance with regulations. Academy will furnish a Summary of Immunization Requirements. If documentation is not presented by the due date, children must be suspended the next school day.**

