

Communicable Disease

Knox County Head Start understands that it is difficult for a parent/guardian to leave or miss work/school when your child is ill. We encourage you to have an alternative plan in the event that your child may not be able to remain in school. Exclusion from the center is sometimes necessary to reduce the spread of communicable diseases. The spread of communicable diseases is a fact of life in school and center based care. Illnesses spread because children have close contact and naturally explore their environment by touching and putting things in their mouths. Staff members receive training to recognize common signs of communicable disease.

KCHS Families receive a Communicable Disease Fact Booklet. This booklet describes the symptoms and treatment of many communicable diseases that your child may be exposed to during his/her enrollment with KCHS. When your child has been exposed to a communicable disease, you will receive a Health Alert notice.

You will be contacted if your child exhibits any of the following symptoms:

- Temperature of 100°F (axillary – under the arm. One degree is added with this method.) when in combination with any other sign or symptom of illness
- Temperature of 101°F or above will result in immediate removal from Center
- Diarrhea (three or more abnormally loose stools within a 24 hour period)
- Severe coughing (causing the child to become red or blue in the face or make a whooping sound)
- Difficult or rapid breathing
- Yellowish skin or eyes
- Redness of the eye(s), obvious discharge, matted eyelashes, burning, itching
- Untreated infected skin patches, unusual spots or rashes
- Unusually dark urine and/or gray or white stool
- Evidence of scabies or other parasitic infections
- Stiff neck with an elevated temperature
- Sore throat or difficulty in swallowing
- Vomiting more than one time or when accompanied by any other sign or symptom of illness
- Head lice: Live bugs found in your child's hair

Isolation

An isolation area will be provided for your child while waiting for you to pick him or her up. The purpose is to isolate the germs so they do not spread to the other children. **Your child should be picked up within one hour of contact.**

Isolation precautions: a child isolated due to suspected communicable disease shall be:

- Within sight and hearing of an adult at all time
- Cared for in another room or portion of a room away from other children
- Provided with a cot and made comfortable. After use, the cot shall be disinfected with an appropriate germicide, or if soiled with blood, feces, vomit or other body fluids, the cot shall be cleaned with soap and water and disinfected with an appropriate germicide.

CHILD SAFETY NOTE:

Your child is to be picked up within one hour of parent contact. Your child may return to the center once symptom free. KCHS may require a doctor's note in order for him/her to return to the center if your child continues to show symptoms. This note must confirm that the condition is not contagious.

Short-Term Exclusion

Children with chronic or communicable diseases will not be permanently excluded. The health and safety of all children will be assured by requiring exclusion of children who have short-term acute conditions that are contagious and pose an immediate risk to others in the child care setting, such as chicken pox or strep throat.

A child is defined as too sick to attend if (any of the following apply):

- The child is too sick to participate comfortably in the program's activities.
- The staff cannot adequately care for the needs of the sick child without compromising the care of other children.
- The child has a specified communicable disease that could spread to the other children and staff.
- The child has not been fever free for 24 hours

Admission is open and no child is excluded from program participation for a long-term period, solely on the basis of health care needs or medication requirements (such as HIV or asthma), consistent with the American with Disabilities Act and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act unless:

- Keeping the child in care poses a significant risk to the health and safety of the child or anyone in contact with the child.
- The risk cannot be eliminated or reduced to an acceptable level through reasonable modification in the current program policies, practices, and procedures.