

SUBJECT: ILLNESS & POTENTIAL HEALTH RISK POLICY

Reviewed: Oct 06, Oct 08, Oct 18, 2010, May 2024

Revised: Aug 07, Jan 2009, May 2011, Oct 2013, Sept 2015, Apr 2017, July 2018, Dec 2018, July 2019, May 202, Nov 2021, June 2022, July 2024

STATEMENT

Jasper Place Family Resource Centre's intent of this policy is to ensure that measures are taken to minimize the spread of illness and that adequate care is provided to a child that displays symptoms of illness.

POLICY

As per Provincial ELCC Regulation, Schedule 1, Part 1, s. 8(1)(2)(3)

As per Alberta Education ECS Regulation 5 (a)(iii)

A child shall not attend the program if they:

- Have a fever (38 degrees Celsius or higher)
- Have diarrhea (more than 1 loose stool in an hour) [Bristol-Stool-Chart.pdf](#)
- Are vomiting
- Have a new or unexplained rash or cough
- Have a communicable disease or infection
- Are requiring greater care and attention than can be provided without compromising the care of the other children in the program
- Are displaying any other illness or symptom the program knows or believes may indicate that the child poses a health risk to persons on the program premises.

A child may return to the program when:

- The stage of contagiousness for the specific communicable disease has passed
 - Fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications*
 - Gastrointestinal Illness: after all symptoms have resolved*
 - When the program is satisfied that the person no longer poses a health risk to others
 - They are well enough to participate in usual daily activities
- and/or**
- They have been under a doctor's care and the doctor has given permission for them to return to the program

*[Guide for Outbreak Prevention and Control in Child Care Facilities \(albertahealthservices.ca\)](#)

When a child displays signs or symptoms of illness while at the Centre:

- Children are continuously assessed for signs of illness such as diarrhea, vomiting, unexplained cough, rash or fever.
- **When symptoms are observed, they will be documented and a member of the leadership team will be notified.**
- **A member of the leadership will collect additional information and then make a decision about if, how and when parents/guardians will be notified, and if the child needs to be picked up from child care.**
- **Additional information for consideration**
 - Does the child seem themselves? What's changed? Have they eaten? Slept? Have they been participating in activities as usual?
 - What led up to the vomit/diarrhea? Overeating? Coughing?

- What led up to the increased temperature? Sleeping, clothing, running, outdoors?
- How long have symptoms been observed?
- What did the parents share at drop off?
- Did the child just wake-up?
- How are the educators feeling about the child's participation?
- What level of communication is important to the parent? How do they prefer to be communicated with? Email, phone
- Is the Centre in an outbreak?

- **After all considerations are made, leadership will make a decision to;**
 - ask that educators to continue to monitor the child and provide updates
 - to call the parents to check-in and collect more information
 - to email the parent to provide an update
 - to call the parents to come and pick-up the child as soon as possible

Supervision care for sick children:

As per Provincial ELCC Regulation, Schedule1, Part1, s. 9

- The sick child will be offered a space on a cot and/or couch in a quiet corner of the playroom, away from other children, easily visible to the Educators
- The Educator will monitor the child regularly
- If the child is requiring one on one attention, the Director or designate will be with the child outside of the playroom.
- The cot/couch shall be protected with a sheet or disinfected and bedding laundered after each use

Children's Health Records will contain:

- Verification of the child's up to date immunization
- The child's Alberta Health Care Number
- Medical authorization from a doctor for any chronic illness, prolonged medication or any health condition indicating the child's prognosis and instructions

Recording and reporting of Communicable Diseases or illness:

- The staff will keep a record of illnesses on an illness log sheet as per Alberta Health recommendations. The record will include the date the illness was documented, the name of the child, the date the illness first began, the date the symptoms started as reported by the parent, the symptoms of the illness, the action taken and the name of the staff or parent reporting the illness.
- The Alberta Health Services will be notified by the Executive Director or Program Director of any communicable diseases/outbreaks at the Centre
- The Centre will follow any recommendations directed by Alberta Health to control an outbreak. This usually includes increasing the strength of our disinfectant, closing sand, water and playdough activities.
- Notice of the illnesses and details will be posted.

Enrollment of non-immunized child:

- As per Alberta Health Regulation, non-immunized children must be excluded from daycare during a measles outbreak until they are immunized or until 14 days after the last case has occurred.