



PRESCHOOL
CANADA
Early Learning Academy

Outbreak Policy

In certain circumstances, when a number of children or staff is sick with a specific illness, (Region/City) Public Health may declare an outbreak in the center.

In the event that an outbreak is declared, there are a number of control measures put in place. The concentration of disinfectants is increased, toys, high touch surfaces, common areas are cleaned more often, all communal/sensory play stops. All ill children and staff are to be excluded from the center. In the event of an outbreak, at a minimum child and staff can return to the center when they have been symptom-free, and free of vomiting and/or diarrhea for 48 hours (or until other disease-specific criteria have been met as directed by (Region/City) Public Health).

“A child should be excluded from the child care program if one or more of the following exist:

- The illness prevents the child from participating in the program activities; or
- The illness results in a greater need for care than the staff can provide without compromising the care of the other children; or
- the child has any of the following conditions :



Condition	Exclusion	Doctors note to return?
Measles	4 days after onset of rash	Yes, report to public health
Mumps	For 9 days	Yes, report to public health
Chickenpox	Until 5th day of rash, or all blisters are crusted and dry	No note; report to public health
Pinkeye	For 24 hours after treatment begins, and discharge has ceased.	No note if antibiotic present and been taken for one full day before the return
Impetigo	For 24 hours after treatment begins	No note if antibiotic present and been taken for one full day before the return
Head lice	Until treated, and <u>no nits present</u>	No
Pneumonia	Until evaluated by a physician	Yes
Strep throat	Until 24 hours after treatment begins	Not if antibiotic present and taken for 24 hrs
Gastrointestinal Infections	For the duration of diarrhea/vomiting, must be clear for 24 hours to return	No, report to public health



Ringworm	Until treatment has started	Yes
Scabies	Until treatment has started	Yes
Fever (oral or armpit temperature equal to or higher than 39 C, 102 F)	Until fever is gone for 24 hours	No
Hepatitis A	For one week after onset of jaundice	Yes, report to public health
Tuberculosis	Until a physician & local public health confirm no longer infectious	Yes, report to public health
Whooping cough	5 days after start of antibiotics, 3 weeks if no treatment is given	Report to public health; Dr.'s note required."2

1,2Well Beings: A guide to promote the Physical health, safety and emotional well being of children in childcare centers and family day care homes. A project of the Canadian Pediatric Society c2001, Creative Premises Ltd, Toronto, Ontario

Exclusion of Sick Children

For Preschool Canada Child Care Centres purposes, a child is excluded from participating in program activities and interactions with other children and child care staff if:

- the illness prevents the child from participating in program activities.
- the child has a fever, instances of vomiting or diarrhea
- the illness results in a greater need for care than the childcare center staff provide.



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- the illness is an infectious or communicable disease as indicated on (Your Region/City) Public Health’s “Reportable Communicable Diseases” list posted in the center.
- The child has an illness that requires exclusion as outlined in (Your Region/City) Public Health’s guidelines.
- A physician identifies that the child should be excluded from child care.

Following exclusion from the program, a child may return to Preschool Canada Child Care Centre when:

- the child feels well enough to participate in program activities and
- The child is free from symptoms for at least 24 hours
- Written permission to return to the center is obtained from a physician, as required (see chart above)
- in the event that Public Health has deemed an outbreak, children can only return when they have been symptom-free for 48 hours