

# Ozaukee Child Care and Preschool Illness Policy

A very important part of our teachers' jobs is to continually clean and sanitize our classrooms and equipment as well as keeping hands washed and noses wiped. We also educate our older children on the importance of hand washing and covering our noses and mouths when we sneeze and cough. Any help you can give us in these areas is much appreciated. Prevention is the key to reducing the amount and severity of illnesses.

With that in mind, we would like to inform you of our illness policies. We work closely with our State Licensing Representative as well as the Ozaukee County Health Department when establishing and enforcing our illness policies. When speaking with the Health Department, we have shared with them our policies and confirmed that they are in line with their recommendations and stressed that we should be strict with them to ensure the healthiest center possible.

If your child has a potentially contagious illness (see examples below), they must be kept out of child care until they have been free of the illness for the required amount of time based on that illness.

## **Vomiting**

If your child has vomited in the last 24 hours, you must keep your child home. If your child vomits at the center, you will be called to come and pick up your child and they must not return unless they are vomit free for 24 hours.

## **Fever (SEE COVID-19 AMENDED POLICY)**

## **Diarrhea**

If your child has had diarrhea in the last 24 hours, you must keep your child home. If your child has 3 diarrheas in a 24-hour period, you will be called to come and pick up your child and they must not return to the center unless they are diarrhea free for 24 hours.

If you feel that your child has developed symptoms of a contagious illness but for whatever reason they are not contagious, then you must take your child to a physician and get a written excuse or have them fill out our Return to the Child Care Center Form specifically stating that the child is not contagious and why before they may return to the center.

You may also be asked to take your child to the doctor if there is an unknown rash or excessive coughing (SEE COVID-19 AMENDED POLICY), for these are also symptoms of a contagious illness.

If your child is diagnosed with an illness such as pink eye or strep throat, which are contagious illnesses that require antibiotics, your child must be on the antibiotic at least 24 hours before returning to the center.

If your child is diagnosed with a reportable communicable disease such as chicken pox, German measles, infectious hepatitis, measles, mumps, scarlet fever or meningitis, the child may not be readmitted to the center until a physician provides a statement that the child's condition is no longer contagious or until the child has been absent for a period of time equal to the longest usual incubation period for the disease.

If you are bringing in medication for your child, an Authorization to Administer Medication Form must be completed and it must be incident specific and time limited. Medication must be in the original container and labeled with the child's name and the label must include the dosage and directions for administration and cannot be left at the center beyond the time specified on the medication label. Also, medication cannot be left at the center for purposes of reducing a fever.

If your child will not be attending the center due to a contagious illness, please make sure you notify the center within an hour and a half of your scheduled drop off time so that the child can be marked off our attendance for the day and we can post a notification of the illness, if required.

Please keep this letter for future reference. The health of your child and the other children in the center is of utmost concern to us. This is why it is so important to us that our policies are respected.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Ozaukee Child Care and Preschool Management Team

## Ozaukee Child Care and Preschool

### Sick Child Policy Amendment: COVID-19

The safety and wellbeing of all staff, children, and the families at Ozaukee Child Care and Preschool continues to be of utmost importance to us. We always commit to taking all precautions toward keeping children and staff safe and healthy, including the current time of the COVID-19 outbreak. Following this additional sick child policy will help OCCP to do this.

Children will be monitored for signs or symptoms of COVID-19 daily. **Children will be asked to stay home or return home if any of the following applies:**

- Have a fever of 100.4 or higher
- Have had a fever of 100.4 or higher or other potential symptoms of COVID-19, such as shortness of breath or persistent dry cough, within the last 72 hours
- Have come in contact with others who have COVID-19

**To prevent the spread of COVID-19:**

- Children with signs/symptoms of COVID-19 or who have been exposed to others with COVID-19 will be asked to stay home
- Children who develop signs/symptoms of COVID-19 while at the program will be immediately separated from others and the program staff will contact the family member and/or emergency contact to pick the child up
- We encourage families to practice frequent handwashing at home
- OCCP will practice handwashing upon arrival to the program, before meals and snacks, after outdoor play, after using the bathroom, prior to going home, after nose blowing or assisting a child with blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing
- Cover cough and sneezes with tissues, throw tissues in the trash, and clean hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer (if soap and water is not readily available)
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily, including tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks

**If an enrolled child or employee tests positive for COVID-19:**

- The local public health department and the Department of Children and Families Bureau of Early Care Regulation will be contacted. OCCP will follow their guidance for next steps
- The program will post and notify families of any confirmed staff or child cases of COVID-19

**Returning to a child care facility after suspected COVID-19 symptoms:**

- If an individual has a fever, cough or shortness of breath and has not been around anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, they can return to the center no sooner than 72 hours after the fever is gone (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and symptoms get better. If the person's symptoms worsen, they should contact their healthcare provider to determine if they should be tested for COVID-19.
- To return sooner than 72 hours, we would require a note from the doctor stating why the child has symptoms, why they are not considered contagious and when they can return OR negative COVID test results are submitted.
- Children who have had a positive COVID-19 test result within the past 90 days are not required to test but may not return until symptom free for at least 24 hours with no use of fever reducing medications.