

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES (Standard 1302.47 (b)(4)(A)(7)(3))

POLICY

CSNT Head Start/Early Head Start will follow the Communicable Disease Chart for Schools and Childcare Centers published by the Department of State Health Services, along with recommendations from The Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, federal regulations and state laws. Exclusion Policies will be based upon requirements and recommendations set forth by the CDC.

Each campus is required to have a chart posted where every staff person can readily survey for information when needed.

Head Start/Early Head Start classrooms located on ISD campuses will work with and adhere to their ISD exclusion guidelines by sending students to the ISD nurse for assessments.

Head Start/Early Head Start stand-alone campuses will exclude students as per agency policy and procedures following recommendations of the Communicable Disease Chart for Schools and Childcare Centers established by the Department of State Health Services, the CDC, federal regulations and state laws.

Head Start/Early Head Start stand-alone campus staff must refer children with symptoms of communicable disease to the Campus Director during the morning, or as soon as the symptoms are noted. If the Campus Director is not present, the designated staff person should follow recommended guidelines for class and/or care of sick child or staff.

Head Start/Early Head Start staff must confirm reports of communicable disease and require a physician's release to return to school to ensure exclusion criteria is met. Staff must inform parent/s of exclusion criteria during pick up of student.

In the event of an unusual communicable disease or need for special epidemiological consideration, the Health Coordinator should be notified.

Any child with a temperature of 100.0 degrees F must be sent home and fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication, as specified per the Centers for Disease Control and the Department of State Health Services Communicable Disease Guidelines for Schools and Childcare Centers.

Children with chronic reportable disease, e.g. Hansen's disease (Leprosy), Hepatitis B, HIV, AIDS, or other infection under medical management, may attend the campus in their usual instructional setting with approval of the attending physician. Disabilities Services will need to be informed of the child's condition.

Confidentiality must be stressed and maintained.

CSNT Head Start/Early Head Start will be guided by federal regulations, state laws, Presidential and Gubernatorial executive orders, CDC guidance, health department guidelines, and funding source contractual rules. Supremacy rules apply when state and federal rules or laws conflict.

REPORTING COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

POLICY

Community Services of Northeast Texas, Head Start/Early Head Start will adhere to the Texas Communicable Disease Prevention and Control Act (TCDPCA), which requires this Agency to contact the affected person's Primary Care Physician to ensure the confirmed communicable disease case, has been reported to the determined entity set forth by the TCDPCA.

PROCEDURE

Head Start/Early Head Start staff must confirm reports of communicable disease by contacting the student's parents for a physician's diagnosis of the disease and require a physician's release to return to school to ensure exclusion criteria is met.

Staff must inform parent/s of exclusion criteria and reporting requirements of certain communicable diseases during pick up of student/s.

EXCLUSION/S (Standard 130.47 (b)(7)(iii))

POLICY

Community Services of Northeast Texas Head Start/Early Head Start will adhere to the Texas Department of Health Communicable Disease (Rule §97.7) exclusion requirements and Child Care Licensing Minimum Standard exclusion requirements and shall continue exclusion until the readmission criteria for the conditions are met.

Head Start/Early Head Start classrooms located on ISD campuses will work with and adhere to their ISD exclusion and re-entry guidelines by sending students to the ISD nurse for assessments.

Head Start/Early Head Start stand-alone campuses will exclude students as per agency policy and procedures following recommendations of the Communicable Disease Chart for Schools and Childcare Centers established by the Department of State Health Services, the CDC, federal regulations and state

laws, and the medical advice from the student's medical provider.

SEASONAL FLU/COVID MITIGATION POLICY (1302.47 (b)(7) (iii))

This guidance is designed to decrease exposure to regular seasonal flu, COVID, and other communicable diseases while limiting the disruption of day-to-day activities and the vital learning that goes on in CSNT Head Start/Early Head Start Campuses. It outlines conditions of short-term exclusion and admittance to protect the health of the affected child, other children, and staff. Effective use of hygiene procedures significantly reduces health risks to children and adults by limiting the spread of infectious germs.

1. **Stay home when sick:** Those with flu-like illness should stay home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever of 100 degrees or greater, without the use of fever-reducing medicines. They should stay home even if they are using antiviral drugs. Those experiencing COVID should stay the length of time suggested by the CDC and the advice of your students' doctor.
2. **Conduct daily health checks:** Early childhood providers conducting daily health checks should observe all children and staff and talk with each child's parent or guardian and each child. He or she should look for changes in the child's behavior, a report of illness or recent visit to a health care provider, and any signs or symptoms of illness. During the day, staff also should identify children and other staff who may be ill. Ill children and staff should be further screened by taking their temperature and inquiring about symptoms. (refer to Daily Health Check Procedure)
3. **Separate ill students and staff:** Students and staff who appear to have viral illness symptoms should be sent to a room separate from others until they can be sent home. CDC recommends that they wear a surgical mask, if possible, and that those who care for ill children and staff wear protective gear such as a mask.
4. **Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette:** Wash hands frequently with soap and water when possible following program's Hand Washing Procedure, and cover noses and mouths with a tissue when coughing or sneezing (or a shirt sleeve or elbow if no tissue is available).
5. **Routine Cleaning:** Staff must routinely clean areas that students and staff touch often, areas and items that are visibly soiled should be cleaned immediately, with a particular focus on items that are more likely to have frequent contact with the hands, mouths, and bodily fluids of young children (such as, toys and play areas). Staff must follow the CSNT Head Start/Early Head Start Procedure for Cleaning and Sanitizing Tables and Surfaces and the Procedure for Cleaning and Sanitizing Toys.
6. **Early Treatment of high-risk students and staff:** People at high risk for communicable disease complications who become ill with viral illness symptoms should speak with their health care provider as soon as possible.

Early treatment with antiviral medications is very important for people at high risk because it can prevent hospitalizations and deaths. People at high risk include those who are pregnant, have asthma or diabetes, have compromised immune systems, or have neuromuscular diseases.