



Children in childcare programs are grouped together at ages when they are most susceptible to infections and are still building up immunity to infections. Determining what is a significant illness in a child is difficult for both parents and educators. There are four important considerations when determining when a child is too ill to attend a childcare program.

1. The child's ability to participate fully in the daily program routines and activities
2. The comfort and safety of the child who is ill
3. The capacity of the program educators to care for a child who is ill
4. The protection of other children and educators from communicable disease

With these considerations in mind the following guidelines are provided for educators and parents:

1. Any child who is too ill to participate in normal routines and activities, as is usual for the child, should be excluded.
2. Children with upper respiratory infection, with no fever need not be excluded for the protection of others. Respiratory viruses that tend not to cause high fever (i.e. the common cold), are so common that it does not make sense to single out for exclusion those who exhibit minimal symptoms.
3. Children on antibiotics, who don't have a fever and are otherwise well, need not be excluded.
4. Children with generalized rash may be excluded pending a diagnosis.
5. Children with a fever ( $38^{\circ}\text{C}$  or higher) should be excluded.
6. Children presenting with sudden onset diarrhea or vomiting should be excluded until 24 hrs after symptoms have resolved, or upon medical advice.

7. Certain communicable diseases may necessitate exclusion for a period of time. In the case of diagnosed communicable diseases, you must inform the childcare society, who is then is required to advise the Licensing Officer.
8. Children without appropriate immunization will be excluded from care in the event of an outbreak. (for example: whooping cough, measles, mumps)

### **Parent responsibilities when informed that their child is ill**

The following actions will help the childcare program to minimize the overall effect of illness to the benefit of all. The parent, when contacted by their child's program educator that their child is too ill to stay at childcare, will:

- € arrange to pick up their child as soon as possible

**OR**