

Medical Policy for Children

Campus Child Care Co-operative of Guelph Revised October 2022

Medical Policy for Children

The purpose of this medical policy is to establish a clear set of guidelines designed to promote an inclusive environment that is as healthy as possible for all, while respecting each parent's need to access child care on a consistent basis.

General Policy Guidelines

1. The Health Unit is an integral part of our medical policy development. The Health Unit may be contacted with any question that may arise surrounding an illness. As a licensed childcare facility, we are required to follow any directives from our local Public Health Unit.
2. The Child Care and Early Years Act 36(1), requires that a daily observation of each child is conducted in order to detect possible symptoms of ill health. Staff will be looking for symptoms of ill health such as fever, rash, or gastrointestinal symptoms.
3. Staff will also be mindful of any sudden changes to a child's behavior, sleeping or eating patterns or signs that a child has lost some previously acquired skills (i.e., stopped being able to feed him/herself, stopped using language). Any changes will be communicated with parents immediately.
4. If a child becomes ill during the course of the day, staff are required to contact the parent / guardian to pick up their child as soon as possible. All attempts will be made to remove the child from the program and for either a staff member, Executive Director or Supervisor to the office or parent lounge. Please note that the Centre does not have a 'sick room' for children, we do our best to accommodate any sick children while keeping in mind the health and safety of the rest of the children.
5. If your child is sick or has any new or worsening symptoms of illness, they should remain at home until their symptoms are improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours for nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea) and should seek assessment from their health care provider if needed as per the Provincial COVID screening tool.

If the health care provider states that no illness is confirmed and not contagious the child can return to childcare. A doctor's note is preferred but not required.

A child will be sent home if they have one bout of diarrhea and one bout of vomit **OR** two bouts of diarrhea **OR** 2 bouts of vomiting.

6. If a child is prescribed medication/antibiotics, they will need to be on the medication for 24 hours prior to returning.
7. If a child has head lice, they will be able to return after the first treatment and there are no live lice or nits present.
8. A child who has a rash, with or without a fever must be seen by a medical professional to determine if the symptoms are not contagious or communicable. A doctor's note is preferred but not required.
9. Upon arrival at the centre, program staff are to be informed of any prescription or non-prescription medications used by a child in the past 24 hours.
10. The centre agrees to administer medication according to the following policy:
 - i. Prescription medications must be in the original container with the pharmacy label attached indicating the child's name, dosage instructions, doctor's name, dates, storage etc.
 - ii. Non-prescription medications (Tylenol, cough syrup, etc.) can only be administered when accompanied by a written note from a doctor and must be in the original container.
 - iii. The application of non-prescribed medicated creams and ointments will be permitted for the purpose of treating minor abrasions, cuts, burns, insect bites (Polysporin for skin, Benadryl cream, After-bite). We are limited to the number of applications as set out in the directions.
 - iv. The centre will not administer medicated non-prescribed cream/ointment/eye drops that are to treat a contagious illness unless prescribed by a doctor or with a doctor's note.
 - v. Non-prescribed medicated creams/ointments such as skin lotion, Vaseline and diaper creams will be applied, and staff will only make a record of the administration if an adverse reaction is noted.
11. Parents must complete a permission form for the administration of all medications. Any full-time or part-time staff can administer the medication. Staff will record administration times and amounts. Staff must ensure that they have read the Consent to Administer Medication form to ensure all the steps are followed correctly. The form is located in the **YELLOW duo-tang**.
12. When the prescribed course of medication is completed, the form will be kept in your child's file.
13. Many illness policies allow for a child's participation in childcare after a specified time provided that the child is able to participate in normal childcare activities and routines. These normal activities and routines require a child to be alert, not crying uncharacteristically, not trying to or actually falling asleep in the midst of an activity and being able to keep up as well as he/she normally would.
14. If the child is unable to participate in normal childcare activities and routines, staff will contact the parent and ask that the child be taken home for the day. In the event that a child returns to the Centre the following day and is again unable to participate in normal

activities, the Director will contact the parent. If for a third consecutive day the child is unable to participate in normal childcare activities and routines, a note of permission will be required from a doctor before the child is readmitted to the Centre.

15. Outside play (weather permitting) is a requirement of the Ministry of Education. As such, if a child is too sick to participate in outside play, he/she should not attend childcare.
16. Any illness or medical condition not addressed in the second part of this policy involving a situation in which the Director/Supervisor has reasonable grounds to require that a child be removed from the childcare, and which is disputed by the parent, shall be resolved by requiring a doctor's note before the child can be readmitted to the Centre.

Special Medical Needs / Ongoing Medical Conditions

1. All centre staff will receive specific training with regards to the special medical needs of a child, either by the parent, management, or medical professional.
2. The parents will meet with management to complete an Individualized Medical Plan for their child. This plan will be reviewed annually, when the child moves to another program or when changes need to be made to the plan. See also Anaphylaxis Plan.
3. The medical need will be identified on our Allergies/Special and Ongoing Medical conditions form in each program, kitchen and with each program group.
4. Students, volunteers, and other professionals who have direct contact with the children will be made aware of the special medical needs of any child during their intake /orientation.
5. Prescribed medications may be kept at the centre for life threatening illnesses or allergies. Parents and centre staff are responsible to ensure that the medication is on site and has a valid expiry date. If medication is not on site or has expired, the child may not attend.
6. If a medical device is kept at the centre i.e., glucometer, aero chamber, thermometer, the parent/guardian is responsible to provide the manufacturer's instructions and to clean and sanitize.

Outbreak Policy – Gastrointestinal Like Illness

When an age group (program) has 3 or more children with signs and symptoms of vomiting and/or diarrhea within a 4-day period.

OR

When there is a significant increase the number of children throughout the centre who exhibit signs and symptoms of vomiting and/or diarrhea within 48 hours.

When an individual has 2 or more unexplained episodes of vomiting and/or diarrhea in a 24-hour period, this is considered to be 1 case.

In the event that Management classifies the Centre as being in an outbreak situation, the parents will receive a letter informing them of the situation and what to expect. The centre will monitor our progress every day and will follow the gastroenteritis illness checklist provided by Public Health. Public Health will continue to provide resources to the centre and answer any questions. Outbreak inspections will only be done by Public Health when the source of the illness is believed to be foodborne. If your child experiences diarrhea, please see your family physician, who will determine if a stool sample should be taken.

*Please note that the Centre will not take a stool sample from any child. The results of any stool sample tests will not be shared with the Centre. They remain confidential between Public Health and the family.

**** The Provincial COVID screening tool is currently in use**

A sign will be posted on the front door informing families of the outbreak and each program room will post outside their door if any cases are present.

Practices within the centre will go back to normal after there have been no new cases for 5 days from the last case.