

Illness Policy

Our priority is the health and safety of children in our care. Children entering group care typically develop eight to ten colds or illnesses during their first year, and we strive to mitigate the spread of illness and rely on parent partnerships to help us. Before arriving for care, please be sure your children are well and able to participate fully in our daily activities.

When to Stay Home

To protect the health and safety of children and staff, please keep children home if they present any of the following:

- Fever at or above 100.4 F, regardless of how the temperature was taken;
- Symptoms of gastrointestinal infection, such as vomiting or diarrhea;
- Symptoms of respiratory infection, such as cough or sore throat;
- Severely ill appearance, which may include lethargy/decreased responsiveness, irritability, persistent crying, difficulty breathing or spreading rash;
- Any illness that poses the risk of the spread of harmful disease to others;
- Any illness that would prevent a child from participating fully in program activities; and
- Any illness that results in a need for care that is greater than our staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children.

If any of these conditions develop or become apparent during care, children will be sent home. Decisions about whether a child is well enough to attend will be made by leadership. For a child's comfort and to reduce the risk of contagion, the child must be picked up within 90 minutes after notification. Until then, the child will be kept comfortable, may be isolated or masked, and will continue to be observed for symptoms.

General Return Requirements

Children need to remain home until they are:

- Fever-free for a full 24 hours without the use of a fever reducer, and other symptoms improving;
- Able to participate comfortably in all usual program activities, including outdoor time;
- Treated for a full 24 hours with antibiotics, if they have been prescribed;
- Able to meet any "Specific Return Requirements" below, if applicable; and
- Able to meet any local return requirements, if applicable.

Specific Return Requirements and Clearances

A child may not return to the program until all Bright Horizons' Return Criteria are met, any applicable clearances are provided, and any additional state, local, and location requirements are met.

The tables below set out Bright Horizons' specific Exclusion and Return Criteria for various symptoms, conditions, and illnesses.

In some instances, a **Medical Clearance** from a medical provider and/or clearance from the local health department may be required before return. Medical clearances *cannot* be provided by family members, unless the family member is the child's primary medical provider.

For **all reportable communicable diseases**, the Medical Clearance must state that the child is: 1) no longer contagious, and 2) well enough to return to group care.

For **other disease, rashes, or continuing symptoms**, the Medical Clearance must state that the child is well enough to return to group care.

Reporting Illness or Communicable Diseases

Center leadership must be notified within 24 hours of any diagnosis of or exposure to a communicable illness, even if the child remains at home.

TABLE 1.

Exclusion and Criteria for presence of specific symptoms when a diagnosis of infectious disease has not yet been made.

Symptom	Exclusion and Return Criteria	Medical Clearance Required
Rash with fever or behavioral changes	Excluded until cleared by a medical provider after determination has been made that the illness is not an infectious disease.	Yes
Skin sores	Excluded until cleared by a medical provider after determination has been made that the illness is not an infectious disease and sores have healed or can be appropriately covered.	Yes
Abdominal pain	Excluded if abdominal pain continues for more than 2 hours or the child is experiencing intermittent pain associated with fever or other signs or symptoms of illness	Yes
Diarrhea	Excluded until diapered children have their stool contained by the diaper (even if the stools remain loose), and when toilet-trained children are not having “accidents.” Stool frequency does not exceed 2 stools more than is typical for that child during the program day.	No
Diarrhea with blood or mucous	Excluded until cleared by a medical provider after determination has been made that the illness is not an infectious disease.	Yes
Vomiting	Excluded and can return when individual has not vomited in the last 24 hours.	No
Pink or red conjunctiva with white or yellow eye discharge	Excluded for 24 hours after antibiotic treatment has been started if antibiotic has been prescribed.	No
Mouth sores with drooling	Excluded until cleared by a medical provider after determination has been made that the illness is not an infectious disease.	Yes
Symptoms of Respiratory Illness , including, fever, sore throat, body aches, loss of taste/smell, cough or difficulty breathing	Symptoms must be improving and individual must be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of a reducer. Testing is recommended.	No

Exposures		
COVID-19 Exposure	No quarantine required as long as exposed individual remains symptom-free. Recommendations: Testing	No
Exposure to other communicable disease	Excluded per local requirements	Per local requirements

TABLE 2.

Exclusion and Return Criteria for specific infectious or communicable diseases.

Diagnosis	Exclusion and Return Criteria	Medical Clearance Required
RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS		
COVID-19 (SARS CoV-2)	Excluded for ten days. May return earlier if symptoms are improving, fever-free for 24 hours without the use of a reducer, and tests negative with an antigen test on day 5 or later. Adults must be masked through day 10. Masking is recommended for children over two through day 10.	No
Other respiratory viral infection (i.e.- RSV, influenza, croup)	Excluded until General Return Requirements are met.	No
Tuberculosis (active)	Excluded until effective medical treatment has been started and adherence to medication is being documented.	Yes
Pertussis	Excluded for 5 days after beginning antibiotics.	Yes
INFECTIONS WITH RASH OR SKIN CHANGES		
Chickenpox (varicella)	Excluded until all lesions have dried or crusted (usually 6 days after onset of rash), and no new lesions have appeared for at least 24 hours.	Yes
Rubella	Excluded for 7 days after the rash appears.	Yes
Measles	Excluded for 4 days after onset of rash.	Yes

Hand, foot and mouth disease (coxsackie virus)	Excluded until fever free for 24 hours without the use of a fever reducer and sores have healed.	No
Impetigo	Excluded until at least 1 day of antibiotics has been completed, and sores have healed or can be appropriately covered.	Yes
Monkeypox	Excluded for the duration of the illness, typically between two and four weeks until all symptoms resolved and rash is fully healed.	Yes
Head lice	Excluded until treatment has been initiated.	No
Ringworm	Excluded until treatment has been initiated.	No
Scabies	Excluded until treatment has been initiated, and sores have healed or can be appropriately covered.	Yes
GASTROINTESTINAL INFECTIONS		
Shigella	Excluded until cleared.	Yes
Salmonella serotype Typhi	Excluded until cleared.	Yes
Shiga-toxin producing Escherichia coli (STEC)	Excluded until cleared.	Yes
OTHER INFECTIONS		
Strep throat (or other streptococcal infection)	Excluded for 24 hours after antibiotic treatment has been started.	No
Mumps	Excluded for 5 days after onset of parotid gland swelling.	Yes
Hepatitis A virus infection	Excluded for 1 week after onset of illness or jaundice.	Yes

For additional information regarding any of these illnesses, please contact the child's pediatrician.