

# Making Your Child Care Centre a *Healthy Environment*



## A Fact Sheet for Child Care Operators and Staff

York Region Community and Health Services is mandated to inspect all child care centres to ensure compliance with food safety regulations, infection control and safe water standards. This fact sheet is provided for information and guidance to child care centre operators.

### **Recommended Policy for Ill Staff in Child Care**

York Region Community and Health Services recommend that child care centres adopt the following policy:

1. Staff with signs of physical illness should be treated as infectious.

#### **Signs of Physical Illness:**

- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Fever
- Seizure
- Severe coughing
- Difficult or rapid breathing
- Runny nose
- Yellowish skin or eyes
- Redness of eyelid lining
- Unusual spots or rashes
- Infected skin patches
- Unusually dark, tea coloured urine
- Grey or white stool
- Headache and stiff neck
- Unusual behaviour
- Loss of appetite
- Severe itching
- Pain
- Sore throat or trouble swallowing



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For more information or to speak with a Public Health Inspector, please contact York Region *Health Connection* at 1-800-361-5653

01-08 York Region Community and Health Services Department, Health Protection Division





**The following precautions must be implemented to prevent the spread of infections in the centre:**

- Symptomatic staff must be sent home
  - If the staff member exhibits enteric illness (diarrhea or vomiting) the staff must be excluded from the child care centre until symptom free for at least 24 hours (e.g., if staff is sent home Tuesday they cannot return on Wednesday).
2. Staff who are diagnosed by a physician as having a Communicable Disease may only return to the child care centre as specified in the “York Region Community and Health Services Guidelines and Information on Childhood Communicable Diseases” (see Chapter 3) or as directed by their physician.
  3. Certain illnesses must be reported to the local Medical Officer of Health. Contact our Community and Health Services department at 905-830-4444, x3500 if you have any questions about reporting an illness or what illnesses are considered to be reportable.
  4. The supervisor must inform all families of increased or unusual illness, maintaining strict confidentiality of the staff member’s identity.
  5. The occurrence of three or more staff or children becoming ill with two episodes of the same symptoms on the same day is considered an outbreak and our Community and Health Services department must be notified as soon as possible at 905-830-4444, x3500.

