
Health and Safety Policy

In reference to the Health Department Handbook provided by the State, the following guidelines are established to determine whether your child is well enough to attend child care. This policy is not intended to work against families but to ensure a collaborative effort in maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all children, families, and staff.

Fever Policy

At ECCC, the health and well-being of all children are our top priorities. To help prevent the spread of illness, the following fever-related policies will be strictly enforced:

Fever Guidelines

- If your child has had a fever of 100.4°F or higher (measured with a thermometer) within the last 24 hours, they will not be permitted to return to ECCC until:
- They have been fever-free for a full 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications such as Tylenol or Motrin.

Preventive Measures

- Please do not mask your child's fever by administering fever-reducing medications prior to their arrival at the center.
- Inform us if you do not have a working thermometer at home so we can assist you in monitoring your child's health.

Exclusion for Fevers During Care

- If your child's temperature reaches 100.4°F while in our care, you will be contacted immediately and required to pick them up as soon as possible.
- While waiting for your arrival, your child will be kept in a separate area to ensure their comfort and prevent the spread of illness to others.

Additional Considerations

- Please use your best judgment when determining whether your child is well enough to attend. If they are not feeling well or exhibiting symptoms of illness, it is better to keep them at home.
- Be aware that some illnesses, including many viruses and infections, may not present with a fever. If your child is unwell but fever-free, they should still stay home until they recover.
- Illnesses can begin unexpectedly during the day. If your child becomes ill while in our care, you will be notified immediately and asked to arrange for their prompt pick-up.

Diarrhea Policy

To ensure the health and safety of all children in our care, ECCC follows these strict guidelines regarding diarrhea:

Exclusion for Diarrhea

- If your child has experienced three or more episodes of diarrhea within a 12-hour period, they will not be permitted to return to child care until 24 hours have passed without any diarrhea episodes.

On-Site Diarrhea

- If your child has more than one episode of diarrhea while in our care, you will be contacted immediately and required to pick them up as soon as possible.

Precautionary Approach

- Diarrhea can have various causes, but we treat all cases with the utmost precaution to prevent the potential spread of illness.

Medications and Loose Stools

- If your child is taking medications that may cause changes in bowel movements, such as loose stools, please inform us in advance.
- While loose stools caused by medications are not considered diarrhea, they still pose a risk of contamination and require careful attention to hygiene.
- Loose stools can increase the likelihood of germs spreading to objects, clothing, and other children, necessitating extra caution.

Vomiting Policy

To ensure the health and well-being of all children in our care, ECCC follows these guidelines regarding vomiting:

Exclusion for Vomiting

- If your child has vomited within the last 24 hours (due to the stomach flu or excessive coughing without being seen by a doctor), they will not be allowed back at child care until 24 hours have passed since the last episode of vomiting.

On-Site Vomiting

- If your child vomits while in our care, you will be contacted immediately, and your child will need to be picked up as soon as possible.



Cold Symptoms Policy

To maintain a healthy environment for all children, ECCC follows these guidelines regarding cold symptoms:

- **Cough and Runny Nose:**
 - If your child has an active cough and/or a runny nose, they may be separated from the group until the discharge has slowed down or stopped completely.
 - If your child is well enough to actively participate in our daily activities, they can attend child care. However, due to the close contact among children, precautions are taken to prevent the spread of infections.
- **Separation from Group**
 - If your child has an excessively runny nose or persistent cough, they may be separated from the group.
 - ECCC will provide them with their own toys and activities in a separate area, ensuring a clean and safe space.
 - Toys will be cleaned and rotated with others to maintain a sanitized environment.
- **Hand Washing**
 - Encourage frequent hand washing at home. Children under the age of one should wash their hands regularly throughout the day with regular soap and water.
 - Frequent hand washing helps reduce the spread of infections.
 - Keep in mind that frequent hand washing may cause dryness, so ensure your child's skin is moisturized regularly.

Antibiotics Policy

If your child has been prescribed antibiotics for any reason, please notify us. To ensure your child's health and prevent the spread of illness, we require:

- **24-Hour Rule:** Your child should be on their antibiotic for at least 24 hours before returning to child care. This allows them time to rest and recover properly.
- **Monitoring Health:** Assess whether your child feels well enough to return and if their illness remains contagious prior to the antibiotic taking full effect.

Siblings Policy

In cases where one child is ill and unable to attend daycare, we may ask that well siblings stay home for observation. This decision depends on the nature of the illness and whether other children have been exposed.





- **24-Hour Observation:** Many illnesses show symptoms within 24 hours of exposure. To prevent the spread, it's important to monitor all children closely.
- **Precautionary Measures:** If one child becomes sick, other siblings may need to stay home for observation to ensure the health and safety of all children.

Demeanor

If your child(ren) is not feeling well, extremely irritable, not eating or drinking, and/or unable to participate in normal daily activities—regardless of whether a fever, vomiting, or diarrhea is present—you may be asked to pick up your child.

- **Staffing Considerations:** It becomes difficult and a safety concern to provide adequate care when one child requires special attention while the rest of the group is being cared for. Additionally, it is not feasible to call in extra staff members.
- **Using Best Judgment:** We will use our best judgment, but please understand if a call is made for you to pick up your child. This ensures we can continue to provide the best care for all children attending daycare.

Exclusion of Ill Children

If your child is unable to participate in our daily routine, has a fever, diarrhea, vomiting, unexplained rash, or develops a contagious or infectious disease (such as chickenpox, measles, mumps, etc.), they will be excluded from the group, and you will be called for immediate pickup.

Comfort Measures:

- If vomiting or diarrhea occurs, your child will remain comfortable in the bathroom with a staff member.
- For other symptoms, they will be placed in a separate room with a nap mat to rest, while a staff member remains with them until your arrival.

Other Illnesses

- If your child develops a skin rash, influenza, pink eye, sore throat, or any other possible contagious disease or illness while at my home, they will be sent home.
- **Returning to child care:**
 - If your child develops these illnesses at home, please contact your doctor to determine how long they are contagious.
 - Do not send your child back to child care until they are completely well.
 - A doctor's note may be required prior to readmittance to daycare. This will be determined based on the specific illness experienced.



Food Allergies Policy

- **Notification Requirement:**
 - Parents must notify us in writing if their child has a food allergy. This ensures we can make appropriate food substitutions to accommodate the allergy.
- **Substitution List:**
 - The written notification should include a list of suitable food alternatives. This list must be updated at least once a year.
- **Emergency Action Plan:**
 - Since food allergies can be life-threatening, an emergency care action plan must be completed by the child's physician.
 - This plan outlines the steps to take in case of an allergic reaction.

Doctor's Notes Policy

- **Doctor's Notes:**
 - A doctor's note regarding your child's illness may be necessary to ensure proper precautions are taken, minimizing exposure to other children.
 - A doctor's note does not override the policies outlined in this document. It serves as a means to evaluate whether it is safe for your child to be around other children during the course of their illness.
- **Temperature Policy:**
 - If your doctor provides a note stating it is acceptable for your child to return to daycare with an elevated temperature, as long as they are acting well and no new symptoms have developed, this does not mean your child can return with a temperature over 100.4°F when taken with an ear thermometer.
 - Our policy specifically states that your child will be sent home or should stay home if they have a temperature of 100.1°F or more.

Medication Administration Policy

General Policy:

- Most medications can be given before and after daycare hours, and in many cases, our administration of medication is not necessary.
- Should a chronic medical condition arise requiring medication during child care hours, please discuss this with the ECCC Director so we can develop a suitable plan

Medication Handling:

- Our center does not administer prescription or over-the-counter medications to children.



- All medications must be handed directly to a staff teacher leader in the classroom, along with specific written instructions for administration.
- Medications must never be left in a child's cubby or given to the child to self-administer.
- Staff teacher leaders will document all medication details and dispense medications in accordance with the provided instructions.

Immunizations Policy

- ECCC accepts children who are up-to-date on immunizations recommended by the Department of Health. Immunization records must be made available to ECCC upon request or updated regularly.
- The only exception to this rule is for medical reasons, which must be discussed with us prior to care.
- Immunizations are required according to the current schedule recommended by the U.S. Public Health Services and the American Academy of Pediatrics (www.aap.org).

Key Points:

- Each December, ECCC consults with the public health department or the American Academy of Pediatrics for updates to the recommended immunization schedule.
- ECCC follows state guidelines regarding attendance of children who are unvaccinated for religious or medical reasons. Unvaccinated children are excluded during outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases as directed by the state health department.
- **Texas Immunization Exemptions:**
According to the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §97.62, there are conditions under which students can request an exemption from immunizations at their child care center:
 - If a healthcare provider determines it is unsafe for them to receive a certain vaccine.
 - If they are in the United States military.
 - If they have a religious or personal belief against getting immunized. Parents are required to submit a duly notarized affidavit to claim an exemption.
 - For more information, visit: [American Academy of Pediatrics](http://www.aap.org)

Thank you for your dedication to maintaining a safe and healthy environment. If you have any questions or need further assistance, feel free to ask.





I have read the above Health and Safety policies and understand their contents.

Parent Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

