

### Health and Safety Notes California Childcare Health Program

# Exposure to Communicable Disease



As a child care provider, you join hands with parents in your efforts to create a healthy environment for children in your care. You and the parents will benefit from the communication of your health and safety policies, health and safety messages and new knowledge gained on health and safety issues. You are also required to inform parents when children in your care are exposed to a communicable disease.

This health and safety note will help you prepare a written notice to parents about exposure of their children to a communicable disease. The notice will alert them to watch for signs of that illness and seek medical advice when necessary.

# Confidentiality

Please keep in mind that when notifying parents about exposure, the confidentiality of the ill person should be maintained. You should not report the name of the child, other family member, or staff member who is ill to other parents. Let the parents of an ill child know ahead of time that you will be sending exposure notices to other parents but will not mention any names.

# Reporting Communicable Diseases to Outside Agencies

All licensed child care programs are required to report outbreaks of some communicable diseases to both Community Care Licensing and the local public health department. A list of those diseases which are reportable in California is included on the final page of this note. An outbreak is defined as two or more known or suspected cases of a disease. However, the American Academy of Pediatrics strongly recommends that child care providers report even if there is only a single case, to ensure that the local Public Health Department is aware that this serious illness is present in a child care setting. When you report to licensing and your local health department, the parents of the children must be informed that you are required to report the disease. The children's health care providers are also required to report communicable disease to the health department. We encourage you to work closely with the local health department to reassure and inform parents and staff.

The requirement to report communicable diseases to the local health department applies to any licensed facility, whether it is a center or family child care home. However, we strongly encourage unlicensed providers to report communicable diseases as well and work closely with their local health department.

# **Parental Responsibilities**

Just as child care providers have an obligation to report when children in care are exposed to a communicable disease, parents have the same obligation to report diseases to the child care program within 24 hours of a diagnosis, *even if* they keep their child at home. That way, the child care provider can alert other parents to watch for signs of that illness in their children and seek medical advice when necessary.

### **Exclusion Policies**

Distribute and explain your exclusion policies to parents and staff before illness arises. Have a clear, up-to-date exclusion policy for illness and provide parents with a copy when they enroll their child in your program. Ask your health consultant or a health professional to review it periodically. Writing a sound policy and enforcing it consistently will help reduce conflicts. Make sure all staff understand the policies and how to enforce them.

Please call the Healthline at (800) 333-3212 for more information.

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# Notice of Exposure to Communicable Disease

NAME OF CHILD CARE PROGRAM
ADDRESS OF CHILD CARE PROGRAM
TELEPHONE NUMBER OF CHILD CARE PROGRAM
DATE
Dear Parent or Legal Guardian:
A child in our program has or is suspected of having:
INFORMATION ABOUT THIS DISEASE
The disease is spread by:
The symptoms are:
The disease can be prevented by:
What the program is doing to reduce the spread:
What you can do at home to reduce the spread:

If your child has any symptoms of this disease, call your health care provider to find out what to do and be sure to tell them about this notice. If you do not have a regular health care provider to care for your child, contact your health department for instructions on how to find one, or ask staff here for a referral. If you have any questions, please contact:

at

(CAREGIVER'S NAME)

(TELEPHONE NUMBER)

# Suspected Illness or Communicable Disease Exclusion Form

### **Dear Parent or Legal Guardian:**

Today at our child care facility, your child was observed to have one or more of the following signs or symptoms:

	Diarrhea (more than one abnormally loose stool) Difficult or rapid breathing Earache	Child gets red or blue in the face Child makes a high-pitched croupy or whooping sound after s/he coughs
	Fever (101° F or above orally)	Severe itching of body/scalp
	Gray or white stool	Sore throat or trouble swallowing
	Headache and stiff neck	Unusual behavior
	Infected skin patches	Child cries more than usual
	Crusty, bright yellow, dry or gummy areas of skin	Child feels general discomfort
	Loss of appetite	Cranky or less active
	Pink eye	Just seems unwell
	Tears, redness of eyelid lining	Unusual spots or rashes
	Irritation	Unusually dark, tea-colored urine
	Swelling and/or discharge of pus	Vomiting
	Severe coughing	Yellow skin or eyes
		Head lice or nits
Co	ntact your health care provider if there is:	
	Persistent fever (over 100° F) without other	Yellow skin and/or eyes
	symptoms	Unusual confusion
	Breathing so hard he cannot play, talk, cry or drink	Rash, hives or welts that appear quickly
	Severe coughing	Severe stomach ache that causes the child to
	Earache	double up and scream
	Sore throat with fever	No urination over an 8 hour period; the mouth
	Thick nasal drainage	and tongue look dry
	Rash accompanied by fever	Black stool or blood mixed with the stool
	Persistent diarrhea	Any child who looks or acts very ill or seems to be
	Severe headache and stiff neck with fever	getting worse quickly
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#### We are excluding your child from attendance at our program until (possible options):

- □ The signs or symptoms are gone
- □ The child can comfortably participate in the program
- □ We can provide the level of care your child needs
- □ Other:\_\_\_\_\_

# **Communicable Diseases Reportable in California**

#### Licensed child care providers are required to report outbreaks of any disease, including diseases not on the list.

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) (HIV Infection only: see "Human Immunodeficiency Virus") Amebiasis 🛈 🖂 Anthrax 🖀 Avian Influenza (human) 🕿 Babesiosis  $\mathbb{D}$ Botulism (infant, foodborne or wound) 🕿 Brucellosis 🖀 Campylobacteriosis 🛈 🖂 Chancroid Chickenpox (only hospitalizations and deaths)  $\mathbb{D}$ Chlamydial Infections, including Lymphogranulom Venereum (LGV) Cholera 🖀 Ciguatera Fish Poisoning 🕿 Coccidioidomycosis Colorado Tick Fever 🛈 🖂 Conjunctivitis, acute infectious of the newborn (specify etiology)  $\mathfrak{D}$ Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) and other Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) Cryptosporidiosis 🛈 🖂 Cysticercosis or Taeniasis Dengue 🖀 Diarrhea of the newborn (outbreak) 🖀 Diphtheria 🖀 Domoic Acid Poisoning (Amnestic Shellfish Poisoning) 🖀 Ehrlichiosis Encephalitis-viral, bacterial, fungal or parasitic (specify etiology)  $\mathbb{D}$ Escherichia coli: shiga toxin producing (STEC) including E. coli O157 🕿 Foodborne disease  $\mathbb{O}$ Giardiasis Gonococcal infections Haemophilus influenzae invasive disease (report an incident less than 15 years of age)  $\mathbb{O}$ Hantavirus infections 🕿 Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome 🕿 Hepatitis, viral Hepatitis A 🛈 🖂 Hepatitis B (specify acute case or chronic) Hepatitis C (specify acute case or chronic) Hepatitis D (Delta) Hepatitis, other, acute Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Influenza deaths (report an incident of less than 18 years of age) Kawasaki Syndrome (Mucocutaneous Lymph Node Syndrome) Legionellosis Leprosy (Hansen's disease) Leptospirosis

Listeriosis 🛈 🖂 Lyme disease Malaria 🛈 🖂 Measles (Rubeola) 🛈 🖂 Meningitis-viral, bacterial, fungal or parasitic (specify etiology)  $\mathfrak{D} \boxtimes$ Meningococcal infections 🕿 Mumps Paralytic shellfish poisoning 🕿 Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID) Pertussis (Whooping Cough) ① Plague (human or animal) 🖀 Poliomyelitis, paralytic 🛈 🖂 Psittacosis 🛈 🖂 Q fever  $\mathbb{D}$ Rabies (human or animal) 🖀 Relapsing Fever 🛈 🖂 Rheumatic Fever, acute Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever Rubella (German measles) Rubella Syndrome, Congenital Salmonellosis (Other than Typhoid Fever) ① Scombroid fish poisoning Shiga Toxin (detected in feces) 🖀 Shigellosis 🛈 🖂 Smallpox(Variola) 🖀 Staphylococcus aureus infection (only a case resulting in death or admission to an intensive care unit of a person who has not been hospitalized or had surgery, dialysis, or residency in a long-term care facility in the past year, and did not have an indwelling catheter or percutaneous medical device at the time of culture) 🖀 Streptococcal infections (outbreaks of any type and individual cases in food handlers & dairy workers only)  $\mathbb{O}$ Syphilis 🛈 🖂 Tetanus Toxic Shock Syndrome Toxoplasmosis Trichinosis 🛈 🖂 Tuberculosis 🛈 🖂 Tularemia Typhoid Fever (cases and carriers)  $\mathbb{O}$ **Typhus Fever** Vibrio infections D Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (e.g. Crimean-Congo, Ebola, Lassa and Marburg viruses) 2 Water-associated disease (e.g. Swimmer's Itch or Hot Tub Rash) 🛈 🖂 West Nile Virus (WNV) Infection D Yellow Fever 🕿 Yersiniosis 🛈 🖂 Occurrence of any unusual disease 🕿 Outbreaks of any disease (including diseases not listed here) 🖀

#### **Urgency Reporting Requirements**

- $\mathbf{a}$  = Report immediately by telephone (designated by a  $\mathbf{a}$  in regulations\*).
- Report immediately by telephone when two (2) or more cases or suspected cases of foodborne disease from separate households are suspected to have the same source of illness (designated by a in regulations).
- $\mathbb{D}$  = Report by Fax, telephone, or mail within one (1) working day of identification (designated by a + in regulations).

All other diseases/conditions should be reported by FAX. telephone, or mail within seven (7) calendar days of identification.

There are no standard reporting forms for child care providers to use. Please call your local health department immediately to report any outbreak or suspected outbreak of a communicable disease at a child care center.

\*Community Care Licensing Title 22 Regulations.