

## United Community Action Program – 0-5

### When a Child Is Too Sick To Attend

**Most children with mild illnesses can safely attend Head Start/Early Head Start. But, a child may be too sick to attend if:**

- The child does not feel well enough to participate comfortably in the program's activities.
- The staff cannot adequately care for the sick child without compromising the care of the other children.
- The child has any of the following symptoms or their illness is contagious.
- **Fever:** (above 100) and accompanied by behavior change and other signs or symptoms of illness, (never take temperature orally or rectally). Must be fever free without medication for 24 hours prior to returning to school.
- **Diarrhea:** Changes from a child's usual stool pattern, increased frequency of stools, looser – watery stools, or child can't get to the bathroom in time. Must be diarrhea free for 24 hours, from time of last stool.
- **Vomiting:** Child will need to go home if he vomits more than once. Must be vomiting free for 24 hours, from time of last episode.
- **Rash:** We cannot diagnose, must have doctors release to attend school.

**The child has any of the following diagnosis from a health provider (until treated and/or no longer contagious):**

- **Pink Eye (infectious conjunctivitis):** with eye discharge, until 24 hours after treatment is started.
- Head Lice, scabies or other infestation: until 24 hours after treatment and free of bugs & nits.
- **Impetigo:** until 24 hours after treatment is started.
- Strep throat, scarlet fever: until 24 hours after treatment is started.
- **Pertussis:** until 5 days after treatment is started.
- **Tuberculosis (TB):** until health care provider determines that the disease is not contagious.
- **Chicken Pox:** until 6 days after start of rash or all sores have crusted over.
- **Mumps:** until 9 days after start of symptoms (swelling of cheeks).
- **Measles:** until 6 days after start of rash.
- **Rubella (German Measles):** until 6 days after start of rash.
- **Hepatitis A:** until 7 days after start of symptoms (jaundice).
- **Oral Herpes:** (if child is drooling or lesions cannot be covered) until lesions heal.
- **Shingles:** if lesions cannot be covered) until lesions are dry.

Adapted from: Caring for our Children, American Academy of Pediatrics & American Public Health Association, & Good Health Handbook.

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