

Childcare Center Exclusion Criteria Supplement

The Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH), Epidemiology Division (EPI), has created this supplement to ADPH Family Health Services, Healthy Child Exclusion Criteria with updated notifiable disease, outbreak, and water illness information in childcare centers.

Notifiable Diseases and Outbreaks

- Childcare center directors are required to report notifiable diseases and outbreaks of any kind that involve their children and staff by calling EPI at 1-800-338-8374 or reporting online, please see www.adph.org/epi, REPORT Notifiable Diseases.
- An outbreak is two or more unrelated (e.g., not siblings) children or staff with the same diagnosis or symptoms in the same group within one week. A group of mild respiratory illness, ear infections, and certain skin conditions are common and do not need to be reported.
- Specific Exclusion Criteria, children and staff must meet the following criteria to return to the childcare center.
 - Toxin-producing E. coli and Shigella, 2-stool cultures obtained 24-hours apart and do not detect the organism.
 - Salmonella serotype Typhi, no diarrhea for 24 hours. If child is less than 5 years of age, they must have 3-negative stool cultures obtained 24-hours apart.
- Childcare centers are not in violation of HIPAA Privacy Rules in reporting notifiable disease and outbreak information on children and staff to ADPH. ADPH is authorized and responsible to prevent or control diseases, including surveillance, investigations, and interventions. For more information on ADPH and HIPAA Privacy Rules, please see www.adph.org/epi, REPORT Notifiable Diseases.

Water Illnesses

- Water illnesses are spread by swallowing, breathing in mists, or having contact with stool-infected water in inflatable water slides, swimming pools, water parks, and other water play areas.
- Everyone has small amounts of stool on their bottoms, which can infect water play activities. If a person has diarrhea, which contain millions of germs, they can easily infect the water in an inflatable slide, water park, or pool.
- Portable wading pools should not be permitted because they do not allow for adequate control of sanitation.
- To prevent water illness in your childcare center
 - Wash your hands after using the bathroom, changing diapers, and before preparing food. Make sure all children wash their hands several times each day.
 - Exclude staff and children with diarrhea (defined by watery or decreased form of stool not associated with changes in diet) from childcare facilities until their diarrhea has resolved.
 - Staff and children should not swim or participate in water activities, until 2 weeks after the diarrhea has stopped.

References:

- National Health and Safety Performance Standards (NHSPS); Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, Third Edition, <http://nrckids.org/CFOC3/index.html>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Healthy Water/Recreational Water, <http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/swimming/>
- Alabama Department of Public Health, Epidemiology Division, www.adph.org/epi, DETECT, TEST, and REPORT Notifiable Diseases



Alabama Department of Public Health

Epidemiology Division, 201 Monroe St, Montgomery, AL 36104

800-338-8374 www.adph.org