

Communicable Disease Control

POLICY:

Head Start staff will lower the risk of spreading communicable disease through preventive health practices and appropriate reporting procedures.

This policy relates to [Head Start Performance Standards 45 CFR Part 1302.47](#)

PROCEDURE:

1. All children will have a signed Childhood Immunization Certificate, indicating that all required immunizations are current and up-to-date, or will have a Medical/ Religious Exemption on file. *(See Immunization Policy)*.
2. All staff and regular volunteers have an initial health exam and/or tuberculosis screening. Each Delegate program will follow their local Board of Education policy.
3. Adults and children will wash their hands with soap and running water regularly. *(See Hand Washing policy)*
4. All classroom surfaces are cleaned and disinfected regularly with an EPA approved disinfectant / sanitizer or if using bleach, following the manufacturer's instructions.
5. All cloth items used by children will be laundered on a weekly basis. If a documented case of lice or scabies occur, the items will be laundered prior to the next day of class.
6. Toothbrushes are stored in an appropriate holder with brushes upright, and not touching each other. *(See Tooth Brushing policy)*
7. If a child is ill or appears to have a communicable disease, measures are taken to prevent the spread of disease by keeping the child isolated from others, but under adult supervision, while contacting the parent(s) or emergency contact person. *(See Exclusion policy)*
8. Staff who have direct contact with a person who has a communicable disease will be instructed in the use of universal precautions. *(See Blood Borne Pathogen Control PLAN policy)*
9. If there is an infectious disease outbreak (two or more children /staff that have an onset of similar signs and symptoms within a 72 hour

period) of any reportable illness, the individual must be excluded if the Health Department or primary care provider suspects that the child or staff member is contributing to the transmission of illness or is not adequately immunized when the outbreak of a vaccine – preventable disease or the circulating pathogen poses an increased risk to the individual.

10. The child /staff member should have a note from the health department or primary care provider clearing them to come back into the facility.

Approved by Policy Council: September 2018