

Big Sandy Area C.A.P., Inc. – HEAD START  
Program Policies and Procedures

## **Exclusion of Sick Children**

### POLICY:

Head Start will temporarily exclude children from the program due to acute and/or contagious illness. Parents will be informed of exclusion guidelines during orientation to the program.

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

### PROCEDURE:

1. In order to ensure the safety and health of children and staff, children who have an acute or contagious illness will be temporarily excluded from the program until the condition subsides, is no longer contagious, or a statement is received from the child's doctor that the child is no longer contagious.
2. Children who have any of the following conditions/symptoms will be excluded from the classroom:
  - Fever or an oral temperature of 100.4 degrees or 101.4 degrees under the arm
  - Nausea or vomiting (more than one time in last 24 hours)
  - Diarrhea (more than two time in last 24 hours)
  - Deep, hacking uncontrolled cough
  - Sore, red throat
  - Shortness of breath/Difficulty breathing/ Severe chest congestion
  - Muscle aches or body aches
  - Fatigue
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Confusion
  - Persistent pain in the or pressure in the chest
  - Pale, gray, or blue colored skin, lips or nail beds depending on skin tone.
  - Unexplained rash
  - Earache
  - Yellow discharge from the eyes
  - Cuts or opening on the skin that are oozing or pus-filled
  - Lice

- A contagious/communicable disease such as:
    - a. Chicken Pox
    - b. Fifth Disease
    - c. Flu
    - d. Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease
    - e. Hepatitis Type A
    - f. Impetigo
    - g. Measles
    - h. Meningitis
    - i. Mononucleosis
    - j. Mumps
    - k. Pink Eye (conjunctivitis)
    - l. Pinworm
    - m. Roseloa
    - n. Rubella
    - o. Strep Throat (streptococcal infections)
    - p. Whooping Cough (Pertussis)
    - q. Covid-19
  - Any illness that prevents the child from participating comfortably in activities.
  - Any illness that results in a need for care that is greater than the staff can provide without comprising the health and safety of other children.
  - Any illness that poses a risk of spread of harmful disease to others.
3. If a parent knows or suspects that their child has a contagious disease, advise her/him to call the classroom to make staff aware of the absence and to take the child to see a licensed health care professional to confirm the diagnosis and receive medications (if needed). If the child was taken to a health provider, the parent/ guardian will need to bring a school excuse or note from the health care provider, releasing child to return to classroom.
  4. The child will need to be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication, prior to returning to the classroom, so the signs and symptoms of fever will not be masked by medication.
  5. If staff are uncertain regarding the child's condition or whether the illness poses a risk to others, a call will be made to the parent to discuss the situation. In cases where the parent and staff disagree about the child's condition, staff will take child to school nurse/health aid if available, call the Delegate Head Start Director, designated staff person, Grantee Health Services Manager or child's physician for further advice.
  6. Refer to Communicable Disease and Illness policy and procedures for further guidance.

### **Procedure to take a child's temperature.**

- If possible use a touchless thermometer, following manufactures instructions for use.

If not available do the following.

\* Follow thermometer manufactures instructions for use.

\*Turn the digital thermometer on.

\*Place a thermometer probe cover over the portion of thermometer that will be placed in the child's mouth. If the child is unable or unwilling to hold the thermometer in their mouth, then place the probe tip under the arm with the arm held against their chest.

\*Have the child hold it under their tongue until the temperature is displayed (*usually 30 seconds - 2 minutes depending on the thermometer*). A normal temperature is 98.6 degrees F. If the oral temperature is 100.4 or the underarm temperature is 101.4 degrees call the parent /guardian to let them know the child is sick and needs to be picked up as soon as possible.

\* Make sure scanner thermometer is set for Fahrenheit, and not Celsius.

*Approved by Policy Council; August 2021*