

IX. Health and Safety

Consultant

MCCC has a health care consultant available through the childcare council. Her advice has helped determine medical policies and respond to medical situations.

Code Team

One of the benefits of being located on VA grounds is that the VA Hospital will respond to any Medical Emergencies or "Codes" called in by our staff. In the event of a Medical Emergency, a "Codes" can be dialed into the VA operator who immediately dispatches a "Code Team" which consists of a Physician, Registered Nurse, Respiratory Therapist, Fire Dept., and Police. (See Emergency Care pg.38)

Health Guidelines

According to the New York State Day Care Rules and Regulations, MCCC must exclude from care any child diagnosed with a communicable disease (covid-19, measles, mumps, chicken pox, etc.) or obvious acute illness. Parents may not send their child to the center if he/she is sick or has signs of infection, diarrhea, abnormal temperature, skin rash, or pink eye. The basis for all the center policies concerning illness is the protection of the ill child as well as the other children entrusted to MCCC's care. ***Please note that it is the parents' responsibility to keep emergency contact number up to date on the blue card.*** Please notify the teachers if corrections are necessary during the year.

Immunization

A copy of your child's most current immunization record and physical must be on file at MCC and must be updated each time your child receives a new vaccine. Failure to comply with this regulation may result in suspension of care, with full tuition obligation. Care resumes when the form is complete and on file. The child's physician must complete form DSS-4433, available in the office.

Specific Illnesses and Conditions

MCCC staff does not diagnose disease but is well trained to identify indicators of illness. They help implement and interpret policy on health and safety. The teacher will also determine when children must be excluded from care at the Center. All teachers receive a first aid certification every two years in Early Childhood Health and Safety as well as CPR training.

Exclusion Policy

If your child is not feeling well, we ask that you do not bring them to the Center. If the child is exhibiting symptoms beyond what appears normal for the child, please do not bring them to the Center. When the child's teacher conducts the daily health check, if (s)he determines that your child is exhibiting symptoms and is not well enough to attend care that day, you will be asked to take your child home. Children should remain home until they are fever free for 48 hours. If your child is out longer than 48 hours, they will need a doctor's note to return to the Center. If the child has a communicable/contagious virus, they are not to return until symptoms have subsided and must have a doctor's note. If the child with a communicable/contagious virus has any other siblings attending the Center, the child must also stay home and can return if they are symptom free for 24 hours. If there is anyone at home (Mom, Dad, older sibling, grandparent, etc.) that have a communicable/contagious virus or suspect a virus, please keep the child home for 24 hours. If the child remains symptom free after 24 hours, they may return to the Center.

Illness Report

In the event your child gets sick during care, an illness report will be filled out and given to you upon pick-up indicating the reason for exclusion.

Abuse and Neglect suspected

The Teachers conduct daily health checks. This includes checking children for signs of child abuse. Whenever there is suspected child abuse or neglect, teachers are required by law to report if they have reasonable cause to suspect child abuse or maltreatment of any child enrolled at the center.

Universal Precautions

All staff is trained annually in these procedures to control the spread of disease. Staff consistently wash their hands throughout the day, use gloves when changing diapers and have bleach solution made fresh daily to use as a disinfectant.

When to keep your child home

We are unable to accept at the center any child with the following symptoms:

- The illness or child's reactions to it, require more staff care than staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of the other children.
- Signs and symptoms of possible illness such as usual lethargy, uncontrolled coughing, persistent abdominal pain, irritability, persistent crying, difficult breathing, wheezing or other unusual signs until a medical evaluation allow inclusion.

Colds

Children will undoubtedly have colds. Children should be kept home if the cold is new and is accompanied by a fever, productive cough, chills, lethargy, or irritability. Many children have chronic runny noses with no other symptoms; this alone does not justify being excluded from childcare.

Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)

A child is not allowed to come to the center with untreated conjunctivitis, regardless of the type. Since pink eye is very contagious, children must stay home until 24 hours after the first administration of medication.

Chicken Pox

Incubation period 7 to 21 days. May not return until all scabs are dried and crusted.

Diarrhea

Persistent diarrhea, defined as three or more stools in a 24-hour period, when that pattern represents one or more of the following:

- An increased number of stools compared to the child's normal pattern.
- Increased stool water
- Diarrhea accompanied with symptoms of dehydration, such as sunken eyes, dry skin, concentrated urine or small amounts of urine, fewer than six wet diapers in a 24-hour period, or no urine in four hours; or diarrhea accompanies with blood in the stool.

Soiled clothing from an episode of diarrhea or loose bowels while at the center is place un-rinsed into a plastic bag. Health experts advise handling feces and soiled clothing as little as possible in order to prevent the spread of disease. The child may return to the center after 24 hours if bowels movements have returned to normal and fluid intake is good.

Fever

Children will be excluded and referred to a health professional whenever a fever of a temperature above 100 degrees F. The child may return to the center when they have been fever-free (without the use of "Tylenol") for 48 hours.

Fifth Disease

Is a virus which behaves like a mild flu in children. MCCC must be very careful about the spread of this disease and will exclude children who are believed to be communicable. Fifth Disease is also called "slapped cheek" disease because after the early symptoms (low fever, aches, sore throat.) the cheeks get a rash looking like the cheeks have been "slapped." This is the conclusive evidence for the disease. Unfortunately, at this time the child's communicable stage has passed and contact with others will already have occurred. A diagnosis by a physician is still required so that other parents of children can be notified.

Head Lice or Scabies

A child may return to the center 24hrs after he/she has been treated with shampoo or other prescription product.

For head lice child must be nit free.

Undiagnosed Rash

If a child develops a rash at the center, he/she will need to be seen by a health care professional to be diagnosed. The child may return once it is considered non-contagious and/or treated.

Vomiting

Children must stay at home if unusual and persistent vomiting occurs. Three or more times in a 24-hour period, or any vomiting accompanied by symptoms or dehydration or other sign of illness. A child may return to the center 24 hours after the last episode of vomiting and child is able to tolerate regular diet.

For the following illness a child must have written approval from a health care professional to return to the Center

- Active tuberculosis until after treatment has been initiated and the local health unit has approved readmission.
- Diarrhea due to Shigella, Salmonella, Campylobacter, Giardia, E. Coli type 0157:H7, Versinia, Cryptosporidium, until there is one negative stool test obtained at least 48 hours after treatment is completed.
- Diphtheria until readmission has been approved by the local health professional.
- Hepatitis A viral infection until 1 week after onset of illness and until immunoglobulin has been administered to appropriate children and staff or s directed by the local health professional.
- Hepatitis B until readmission has been approved by the local health unit.
- Impetigo until 24 hours after medical treatment has been initiated.
- Meningitis until readmission has been approved by a local health professional.
- Mouth Sores with drooling, or Herpetic Gingivostomatitis until cleared.
- Hands/Foot/Mouth (Coxsackie Virus) until cleared by a local health professional.
- Mumps until nine days after onset of gland swelling.
- Otis Media (ear Infection) until 24 hrs. after initial antibiotic treatment and fever free.
- Pertussis (Whooping cough) until 5 days of a total course of 14 days of antibiotic treatment has been completed.
- Rubella and measles until 5 days after onset of rash.
- Shingles until sores become crusted
- Strep throat, or other streptococcal infections elsewhere in the body until 24 hrs. after initial antibiotic treatment and fever free.

Children must feel well enough to participate in the usual activities of the program

Based on the needs of the child, the safety of others, limitations of the Center and types of illnesses, parent may be required to pick up their sick child and be asked to bring in a doctor's note before your child may return to Center. When you are called to pick up your child, it must be within a reasonable amount of time. If you are unable to come, you need to contact a person on the authorized list.

Please inform the Center if your child has been exposed to a communicable disease, so we can notify the other parents that their child has been exposed to communicable disease. A notice will be posted outside classroom door. These precautions are taken for the protection of your child as well as other children entrusted in our care.

Medication

In accordance with NYS Office of Children and Family Services MCCC policy on administration of medication is as follows:

- Medication may not be disguised in the child's food or beverage, since this is a hazard to the children, and also comprises the exact dosage.
- When a medication must be given at both the center and at home for several days, parents may ask the pharmacist to put the prescription in two containers, one for home and one for the center.
- Medication must be handed directly to head teacher in charge or brought to office. Medication may not be left in school bags or cubbies.

For topical over-the-counter ointments/lotions/creams/sprays:

The parent must complete a permission form for over-the-counter topical medication, sunscreen, and insect repellent. Lotions, creams etc. must be in their original container and labeled with the child's name.

For all other medications (prescriptions, oral, etc.):

The child's physician must complete the DSS Written Medication Consent Form. The form can be picked up in the office. Once we receive a completed form the medication can be brought in. The medication is stored in the office unless refrigeration is required. Over the counter medication must be in its original container and labeled with the child's name. Prescription medication must be in its original container or packaging with the prescription label. Only staff that has completed training to administer medication will administer the medication to the child. All medication forms must be updated every 6 months.

Minor Injuries

In the event a child gets hurt while in our care, basic first aid will be performed. An incident report will be completed by a staff member with the details of the incident and any first aid that was given. Both the parent and the Director sign the report. The parent receives a copy of the completed form.

Emergency Care

If a child requires emergency care beyond our capacity the "Code Team" will be called. (See pg. 30) The team provides medical assistance and determines whether or not the child needs to be transported to a local hospital for additional medical attention.

At the time of registration, parents must sign an agreement (blue card) giving the Center permission for emergency care. Parents are contacted immediately, if the parents cannot be reached the Center will notify the person designated to call in case of emergency. If someone is not present, a staff member or Director will remain with your child until a parent arrives.
