



UKids - Child Care Programs

CENTER FOR CHILD CARE & FAMILY RESOURCES
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

March 3, 2020

To: UKids Parents and Staff

Re: Review of communicable disease policies and procedures – COVID-19

As the novel coronavirus outbreak continues, the UKids administration team has been monitoring and reviewing CDC and Utah State Health Department guidelines for schools and child care. It is important to remember that Utah has not had a documented case. Below, in bold, are the guidelines the CDC has established to prepare schools and child care for COVID-19 prevention. ([CDC Guidance for Schools and Child Care, 2020](#)). You can also find a letter from the State Epidemiologist to Utah schools at this link. ([Angela C Dunn, 2020](#))

The following are the guidelines, as well as our review of our policies concerning infectious disease.

1. Reduce the spread of a wide variety of infectious diseases

UKids-Child Care Programs has a lengthy health policy to reduce the risk of infectious diseases.

Although this will not prevent all communicable illness, by following these guidelines, we can greatly reduce the spread of many illnesses. Parents, please be mindful of the requirements for exclusion.

- A. Children attending must be current on vaccinations.
- B. Exclude children from care if any of the following are present:
 1. The child is ill enough to require one on one attention in order to be comfortable.
 2. The child's temperature is 101°F (during flu outbreak temp is 100°F) or higher.
Parents are discouraged from giving their child a fever reducer and then bringing them to the center, as a fever is the body's basic defense mechanism to battle illness and a temperature is an indicator that the child is ill.
 3. The child has profuse, thick, yellow, or green nasal discharge or discharge from the eyes or ears.
 4. The child has any infectious skin disease or rash, such as fever blister or thrush.
 5. The child has persistent, non-productive, excessively forceful, or 'barking' cough that interferes with their program day.
 6. Vomiting illness.
 7. Diarrhea, which is defined as an increased number of stools compared to the child's normal pattern, with increased and/or decreased stool water.
 8. Mouth sores associated with an inability of the child to control his/her saliva.

9. Rash with fever or behavior change.
10. Infestation, (i.e. scabies, head lice, pinworm) until after first treatment with a medicated product.
11. Impetigo, until 24 hours after antibiotic treatment has been started.
12. Strep throat, until 24 hours after medication has been started.
13. Ringworm infection, until 24 hours after medication has been started.
14. Chicken pox, until one week after the onset of rash, or until all lesions have dried and crusted.
15. With influenza or other illnesses with fever, children shall be excluded from care, until the child is without fever for 24 hours without the aid of medication.

C. Staff will be excluded from work until condition has been treated and is no longer a threat to the health of children and staff. Staff may not work if **any** of the following are present.

1. A temperature of 101 degrees F or greater, with or without other symptoms of illness.
2. Vomiting in the previous 24 hours.
3. Mouth sores associated with the inability to control his/her saliva.
4. Unexplained rash that is or may be contagious to others.
5. Infected eyes with discharge, until 24 hours after treatment started by a physician.
6. Infestation (i.e. scabies, head lice, pinworm), until after first treatment with a medicated product.
7. Impetigo, until 24 hours after antibiotic treatment has begun.
8. Strep Throat, until 24 hours after medication started.
9. Ringworm infection, until 24 hours after medication started.
10. Chicken Pox, until one week after the onset of rash, or until all lesions have dried and crusted.

D. Specific and extensive list of handwashing requirements for staff and children. Please help us by having your child wash their hands when they arrive for the day.

E. Daily cleaning and disinfecting requirements.

2. Develop information-sharing systems with partners

UKids – Child Care Programs is in contact with the state health department, University administration, and University Health to communicate developing information on the COVID-19 prevention and follow all guidelines. Thus far, the University has suspended University business travel to certain areas.

3. Monitor and plan for absenteeism

Currently, UKids – Child Care Programs has a written plan for the use of substitute teachers in all classrooms. This plan includes using substitute teachers from across our programs, CCFR

staff, and increasing hours of some part-time staff members. During any flu and cold season, it is very typical to have teachers out sick. Although having a substitute can be difficult, it is necessary during this season, to maintain our exclusion for illness policies.

4. Establish procedures for students and staff who are sick at school

Procedures are in place to exclude ill children if they become sick at child care. When parents are notified, it is in the best interest of the child care community to pick up your child as quickly as possible, but at least within 30 minutes of notification. We also ask that parents review their emergency pick-up contacts, as these will be used in case of illness.

5. Perform routine environment cleaning

Each center in the UKids – Child Care Programs have unique and extensive cleaning and disinfecting duties. These are performed daily and weekly. It is the responsibility of the center Program Coordinators to update these duties and ensure they are being performed correctly.

6. Create communication plans

All child care programs are required to post the incidence of any communicable illness. These posts will be in designated areas unique to each program. Please become familiar with the posting sight in your individual center. In addition, the University will send updated information as it becomes available for the COVID-19 virus.

If additional and/or emergency information is necessary, parents and staff will be notified by their email on record. If needed, please check to make sure the center has your current email address. In some cases, and if possible, parents and staff will be notified through text message. If you or your child have traveled to areas with community spread COVID-19, or have been in contact with someone who has traveled to an area, and are showing flu-like symptoms, please communicate this with your center Program Coordinator.

In addition, we remind parents to always have a backup plan for child care. By working together to follow health policies and procedures, we can help make UKids – Child Care Programs as safe and healthy place for children to learn and grow.