

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Day nurseries are ideal places for the spread of infectious diseases because of the large number of young people in close contact with each other that may have not yet developed good personal hygiene habits or immunity.

Children are especially susceptible to a variety of communicable diseases and illnesses through interacting with other children and staff and by possibly eating contaminated food.

Legislation Pertaining To Immunization & Communicable Diseases, Including Requirements, Suspensions, Exclusions from School and Reporting of Diseases:

[Immunization of School Pupils Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. I.1](#)
[Health Protection and Promotion Act, R.S.O., 1990, c.H.7, s. 5, and s. 22](#)
[Specification of Reportable Diseases, Ontario Regulation 559.91](#)

Definitions:

Communicable Disease

An infectious disease that can be spread from person to person, or from animals to humans.

Reportable Disease

An infectious disease that requires an individual to report the instance of the disease to the local Medical Officer of Health.

Expectations of Operator:

- Follow good personal hygiene and infection control practices to prevent and control the spread of communicable diseases in the facility.
- Ensure that all incidences of illness in the daycare are recorded on the [Day Nursery Routine Illness Surveillance Form](#).
- Report communicable diseases and outbreaks to the Health Unit as required under Ontario Regulation 559/91.
- Take time to greet both the parent and child in the morning and ensure the child is well enough to participate in the program.
- Have written policies in place to deal with a child or staff member who becomes sick.
- When meeting with parents to register a child in your program, make sure parents clearly understand their responsibilities when their child is too ill to remain in the centre.
- Treat ill children and staff as if they are infectious. Some infections can be spread from one person to another before symptoms appear and even after the acute illness is over.
- Post a clear cleaning and disinfection schedule for your staff and ensure they understand and follow it.
- Inform all families of increased or unusual illness, maintaining strict confidentiality of the staff member's identity.

Recommended Policy for Ill Staff:

To prevent the spread of infection within the centre, be sure you take the proper precautions:

- Send all symptomatic staff home
- Any staff member with symptoms of an enteric illness (diarrhea and/or vomiting) **must be excluded** from working in the centre until they are symptom free for at least 24 hours.

If a staff member has been diagnosed by a physician as having a communicable disease, he/she may only return to the Centre once they meet the requirements of Algoma Public Health's exclusion policy.

Diseases listed in the reportable communicable diseases list must be reported to the local Medical Officer of Health by contacting your local public health nurse and/or inspector and notifying them. A listing of reportable diseases can be found on the next page

Resources:

[Day Nursery Routine Illness Surveillance Form](#)

[Reportable Communicable Diseases](#)

[Management of Communicable Diseases in Facilities](#)

[Recommendations for "Time Off" School/Daycare](#)

[Guidelines & Information on Childhood Communicable Diseases](#)

[Routine Precautions](#)

Infectious Disease Fact Sheets:

Refer to <http://www.algomapublichealth.com/disease-and-illness/infectious-diseases/>