

Illness Exclusion Quick Reference Chart For Child Care Providers

This chart helps childcare providers quickly determine when a child should be excluded from care due to illness to protect the health and safety of all children and staff.

Condition / Symptom	Exclude When...	Return to Care When...
Fever	Temperature ≥ 100.4°F (38°C) with behavior changes or other symptoms	Fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication
Vomiting	Two or more episodes in 24 hours	Symptom-free for 24 hours
Diarreah	Two or more loose stools above normal OR stool not contained in diaper	Diarrhea resolved for 24 hours
Severe cough / breathing difficulty	Cough interferes with activity or breathing	Symptoms improve and child can participate
Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis)	Eye redness with discharge and irritation	24 hours after treatment begins OR symptoms resolved
Rash with fever	Any unexplained rash accompanied by fever	Medical clearance or symptoms resolved
Head lice	Live lice observed	After first treatment is completed
HFMD (Hand, Foot, and Mouth Disease)	Fever, mouth sores, and child unable to participate	Fever-free and child feels well enough to return
COVID-19 or reportable illness	Symptoms or positive test per local guidance	Follows CDC/local health department guidance



Free resource developed by www.ChildCareED.com

Licensed Under [CCBY](#)

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) — Public Domain