

BASIC GUIDELINES FOR CONTROL OF DIARRHEAL ILLNESS IN CHILD CARE CENTERS

- A. Children and staff with diarrhea should be excluded until symptom free for at least 24 hours
 - a. Certain illnesses such as *Salmonella typhi*, Shigella, and *E. coli* O157 in children under age 5 require repeated laboratory testing and permission from the local health department before a child can return to school.
 - b. A reasonable sick leave policy should be established so that ill or infectious staff will not suffer financial hardship while staying home with diarrhea.
- B. Children and staff should have access to sinks and liquid soap for hand washing.
 - a. Children should be instructed in proper hand washing. Proper hand washing includes washing hands under running water with soap for twenty seconds and drying them with a paper towel. Staff should monitor and assist children in the bathroom as needed to ensure proper hand washing.
 - b. All children should wash their hands at a minimum on arrival, after using the bathroom, after playing outside, and before all meals, including snacks.
 - c. All staff should wash their hands at a minimum on arrival, after diaper changes, after assisting children in the bathroom, after using the bathroom and before serving or eating food.
- C. Diaper changing tables should be cleaned and disinfected with a dilute bleach solution or other disinfectant used according to product label **after each diaper change**.
- D. Bathrooms, toys, and other high touch surfaces such as doorknobs and computer keyboards should be cleaned and disinfected at least once per day with dilute bleach solution or other disinfectant used according to product label. Cloth toys that cannot be disinfected should be removed.
- E. Children should never prepare food or serve food and should be discouraged from sharing food.
- F. Daily attendance records and records of reason for absence should be maintained. Staff should inform the school or childcare center director when any child has loose stools or increased frequency of stool.

If two or more children or staff members in your school or child care center are ill with diarrhea or any child is ill with bloody diarrhea, please contact your local health department.

If any child is diagnosed with an infection due to Shigella, Salmonella, Campylobacter, *E. coli* O157, Yersinia, Giardia, Cyclospora, or Cryptosporidium, please immediately contact your local health department.