Policy: **Caring for the Sick Child**

**Purpose:**
To ensure all children in Head Start are protected against communicable diseases and/or illness.

**Scope:**
Director of Health; Head Start/Early Head Start Staff.

**Authority:**
Performance Standard 1302.47 (a)

**Policy:**
Caring for Our Children Basics Health and Safety Foundations for Early Care and Education
3.6.1.1 Inclusion/Exclusion/Dismissal of Children.
It is our policy that Parents/guardians should be notified when children develop new signs or symptoms of illness. Parent/guardian should be notified immediately for emergency or urgent issues. Staff should notify parent/guardians of children who have symptoms that require exclusion, and parents/guardians should remove the child from the Head Start/Early Head Start and education setting as soon as possible. For children whose symptoms do not require exclusion, verbal or written notification to the parent/guardian at the end of the day is acceptable.
When a child becomes ill but does not require immediate medical help, a determination should be made regarding whether the child should be sent home.

**Procedure:**
If any of the following criteria are met, the child should be removed from direct contact with other children and monitored by a staff member known to the child until dismissed to the care of a parent/guardian, or other person designated by the parent:

- a) Prevents the child from participating comfortably in activities;
- b) Results in a need for care that is greater than the staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children;
- c) Poses a risk of spread of harmful diseases to others;
- d) Causes a fever and behavior change or other signs and symptoms (e.g., sore throat, rash, vomiting, and diarrhea). An unexplained temperature above 100F (armpit) in a child younger than 6 months should be medically evaluated. Any infant younger than 2 months of age with fever should get immediate medical attention.

Parents should not send children to class who have:

1) Sore Throat

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Director of Health & Nutrition
2) Vomiting
3) Diarrhea
4) Gray or white colored stools
5) Unusual spots or rashes
6) Yellowish or infected skin
7) Discharge form eyes
8) Headache and stiff neck
9) Severe coughing
10) Difficulty breathing
11) Dark tea-colored urine
12) Temperature of 100.1 taken with the temporal thermometer. Children must be free from elevated temperature for 24 hours before returning to class.
13) Severe itching of the body or scalp, or scratching of the scalp. These may be signs of lice or scabies.

If any of the above are noticed during school, the ill child shall be kept isolated from the other children until the parent/guardian arrives. Staff will notify the parent or emergency contact for immediate child pick-up and this will be recorded and filed in the child’s file.

The caregiver shall be in close proximity to the child until the parent arrives. This means close enough to hear any sounds a child might make that would indicate a need for assistance.

The parent will be encouraged to take the child to their physician to ensure the child is not contagious. The parent will keep the child home the following day if symptoms still exist.

Center Staff will contact the parent if the child is absent the next day following being sent home to inquire about the child’s health.

Document symptoms in observation logs and results of contact with parents.

Complete on-line Health Concerns Report form at moca-caa.org for each day the child is absent and send to the Supervisor, the Program Director and the Director of Health.