



Aug. 31, 2021

ECEC Notice of Exposure to Communicable Disease

Dear Early Childhood Education Center Families,

The ECEC continues to be notified by families that their children have symptoms of or have been diagnosed with Respiratory Syncytial Virus, also known as RSV. RSV is a virus that causes the common cold and other respiratory signs or symptoms. It is most common in the winter and early spring, but can occur year-round. As always, ECEC classrooms are being cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected appropriately to limit the spread of RSV and other illnesses. This message is to inform you about RSV and the related exclusion and return-to-care practices at our facility. We ask that all families keep children home when ill. Without violating anyone's confidentiality, the facts you need to know about your child's possible exposure in this situation are:

What are the symptoms of RSV?

- Cold-like signs or symptoms for most children.
- Very young infants may exhibit irritability, poor feeding, and/or lethargy (over sleepy, drowsy). An infant may also turn blue with cough or experience brief periods of no breathing (cyanosis).
- Respiratory problems may include a wheezing sound while breathing and/or pneumonia.
- Children with weakened immune systems, prematurity, or heart/lung problems have greater difficulty when ill with this infection

How does RSV spread?

- Direct or close contact with mouth or nose secretions.
- The virus can live on surfaces for many hours and 30 minutes or more on hands.
- Before signs or symptoms appear, the infected person starts to shed virus that may infect others.

How do you control it?

- Practice good handwashing at all times (before/after eating, after diapering/using bathroom, etc).
- Prevent contact with respiratory secretions. Teach children to cover their nose and mouth when sneezing or coughing with a disposable facial tissue, if possible.
- Dispose of used facial tissues and wash hands.

Is my child excluded from group settings? NO, unless:

- Child exhibits rapid or labored breathing or turns blue when coughing.
- Child is unable to participate and staff determine they cannot care for the child without compromising their ability to care for the health and safety of other children in the group.
- The child has a fever.

When can my child be readmitted to group settings?

When exclusion criteria are resolved, the child is able to participate, and staff determine they can care for the child without compromising their ability to care for the health and safety of other children in the group.

If you have any other questions, please call the ECEC at 480-362-2200.

Tami Brungard, ECE Leader



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