

**Tri-County Community Council, Inc.**  
**Head Start/ Early Head Start**

**Part: 1302 Program Operations**

**Subpart: D-Health Program Services**

**Section: 1302.47 Safety Practices**

**Subject: Short Term Exclusion from Head Start/ Early Head Start**

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**Policy:**

Tri-County Community Council, Inc. Head Start/ Early Head Start does not exclude any child from the program based on his or her health care needs. However, the program may temporarily exclude a child if attending the program puts the child, other children in the program, or the staff at risk. These exclusions include short-term injuries or short-term contagious diseases required by Florida Statute to the local Department of Health. If the child, expectant family, or anyone in the home where the home visits are held should have signs of any of the following symptoms, home visits should be documented with reason and rescheduled for a date as soon as illness is over or under treatment. Medical diagnosis and/or treatment documentation should be stapled to missed home visit.

**Procedure:**

1. The following illnesses will require exclusion from the program:
  - a. Fever: Temperature of 101 or higher. Tri-County Community Council, Inc. Head Start/Early Head Start program uses digital ear thermometers or the no touch thermometer to check temperatures. If a child has a fever of 101 or above, the child will be sent home until the temperature has been normal for 24 hours.
  - b. Signs of possible severe illness: These include, but are not limited to lethargy, irritability, persistent crying, or difficulty breathing. Parents will be notified to pick up the child. The child cannot return to the center until he or she is seen by a physician and gets a slip stating the child can return.
  - c. Uncontrollable diarrhea: Increased number of stools compared to what is normal for the child, with liquid consistency. Parents will be notified to pick up the child and the child cannot return until the diarrhea has stopped.
  - d. Vomiting: If the child has vomited two or more times in a 24-hour period, the parent will be notified to pick up the child and the child cannot return until he or she has not vomited in the previous 24 hours.
  - e. Mouth sores: The child will be picked up by the parent unless the child's physician or health department has sent a note stating that the child is not contagious.

**Tri-County Community Council, Inc.**  
**Head Start/ Early Head Start**

- f. Rash: If the child has a rash and has a fever or changes in the child's behavior, the parent will be notified to pick up the child. The child cannot return until the physician or health department states it is all right for the child to attend.
- g. Rubella: The child will immediately be sent home from the program and cannot return until 7 days after the rash disappears, or the health department confirms the child is no longer infectious. (Child must be free of fever for at least 24 hours.)
- h. Purulent conjunctivitis (pink eye): Defined as pink or red conjunctivitis with white or yellow discharge, often matted eyelids after sleep. Child may not return to the program until cleared by the physician or health department.
- i. Infestation (scabies, head lice, etc.): The child must be treated with a recognized lice treatment, available at most drug and discount stores and the health department. The child cannot return until after treatment and the child must be bug free at the time of return.
- j. Open sores that are draining: The child will be sent home and cannot return until 24 hours after treatment is initiated.
- k. Sore throat accompanied by fever: The child will be sent home and the child cannot return until 24 hours after treatment begins and the child's temperature is normal for 24 hours.
- l. Persistent anal itching: Child will be sent home from the program and will not be allowed to return until the health department, or physician assesses the child and determines when the child can return.
- m. Ringworm: (tinea capita, tinea, corpora, tinea curis, and tinea pedis): The child will be sent home from the program and cannot return until they have received treatment for at least 24 hours. Scalp ringworm involves treatment with oral medications and may take two to five days to become non-contagious. Both types of ringworm require a medical release from a physician before the child will be allowed to return to Head Start/Early Head Start.
- n. Varicella (chickenpox): Child will be sent home at the onset of the rash or fever and will not be allowed to return until all lesions have dried up or until the health department or physician provides a written statement that it is safe for the child to return.
- o. Pertussis (whooping cough): Either lab confirmed or suspected based on symptoms. Child will be sent home and cannot return to the program until he/she has completed the appropriate antibiotic therapy and until the health department or physician provides a written statement that it is safe for the child to return.
- p. Mumps: The child will be sent home at the onset of fever and will not be allowed to return to the program until the health department or physician provides a written statement that it is safe for the child to return.

**Tri-County Community Council, Inc.**  
**Head Start/ Early Head Start**

q. Measles: The child will be sent home at the onset of the fever and cannot return to Head Start until the physician or health department sends a written report releasing the child.

2. If for any reason a child is excluded from other children the Documentation of Temporary Exclusion form must be completed.

\*Documentation of Temporary Exclusion form will be filled out and filed in child's family file under "Health."

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**Head Start/ Early Head Start**

Documentation of Temporary Exclusion

\_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Time exclusion began: \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. /p.m.

Time of exclusion ended: \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. /p.m.

Place of exclusion:

\_\_\_\_\_

Reason of exclusion:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Results of exclusion:

Child returned to class \_\_\_\_\_

Child went home \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attending Staff

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date