

## Early Horizons Illness & Medication Policy

We take the health of children very seriously. Because of this concern, we have developed strict policies regarding illness. In following these policies, we will reduce the spread of infection and therefore reduce the number of days your child will be absent due to illness. Your child may not attend EH if he/she possesses any of the symptoms on the following chart. Please note that while we encourage parents to bring their child to see a physician, a doctor's note does not guarantee clearance for the child to come back to Early Horizons.

Symptoms	Will Be Sent Home	May Return to EH	Must Stay Home
<b>Wet Cough</b>	If the mucus is severe or combined with other symptoms such as wheezing, fever, cough, etc.	If the mucus is mild and not combined with any other symptoms.	If symptoms persist and/or worsen regardless of doctor's clearance and/or note.
<b>Runny Nose</b>	If the mucus is severe or combined with other symptoms such as wheezing, fever, cough.	If the mucus is mild or not combined with any other symptoms.	If symptoms persist and/or worsen regardless of doctor's clearance and/or note.
<b>Fever</b>	If the child has a temporal reading of 100.4 degrees or higher.	If the child has a temperature below 100.3 degrees for over 24 hours with no medication needed.	If the child has a temperature of 100.4 or higher.
<b>Diarrhea</b>	If there are two or more episodes of diarrhea within two hours. Diarrhea is defined as unusually watery stool.	When the child has had had a solid bowel movement or it has been 24 hours since the last episode.	If the child is continuously having episodes of diarrhea or it is within the 24 hour frame of their last episode.
<b>Vomiting</b>	After the first episode, unless the vomiting is mild or could be attributed to something not contagious.	If the child is symptom free for 24 hours and is keeping solid foods down.	If the child is still vomiting and unable to keep solid foods down or it is within the 24 hours of the last episode.
<b>Influenza</b>	If there are any flu like symptoms such as fever, chills, fatigue, etc.	Once all flu like symptoms have disappeared.	For at least 24 hours after symptoms have disappeared.
<b>Conjunctivitis</b>	If a child has any redness, discharge, or irritation in one or both eyes.	After 24 or more hours after the child has started the antibiotic eye drops <i>if the infection is bacterial</i> .	<b>Viral Pink Eye</b> - must stay home until all symptoms of pink eye have disappeared <b>Bacterial Pink Eye</b> - must stay home until symptoms have disappeared unless the child has started antibiotic eye drops for at least 24 hours

<b>Coxsackievirus (Hand, Foot, &amp; Mouth Disease)</b>	If the child shows any signs of blisters/ulcers on the body that <i>may</i> be accompanied by a fever.	If the blisters/ulcers have disappeared and/or completely popped and have scabbed over. The child must also be fever free for 24 hours.	The child has a fever and/or blisters on the body. A doctor's note will not give clearance to allow your child to return back to EH.
<b>Roseola</b>	If a rash is present right after a fever breaks.	If the child has had the rash for 24 or more hours.	If the child is still symptomatic (fever, rash develops within 24 hours, etc.)
<b>Lice</b>	If there are any live bugs or nits found in their hair.	Once the child's hair is lice and nit free.	If the child has any lice and/or nits in their hair. EH has a no nit policy. A doctor's note will not clear a child to return to Early Horizons.
<b>Rash</b>	If there is any unidentified rash out of the diaper area.	If the rash is not suspected of being contagious, such as hives or heat rash.	If the child's rash progresses and EH suspects it may be contagious, regardless of a doctor's note.
<b>Fungal Infection</b>	If a child presents symptoms such as blotchy spots, rashes, and/or other irritations that may be severely itchy.	If a contagious fungal infection is being treated by antibiotics or antifungal oral medications and/or antifungal ointments for at least 24 hours.	If symptoms persist or worsen with or without treatment, regardless of a doctor's note.
<b>Strep Throat</b>	If the child has a fever, irritability while eating and/or drinking, complains of a sore throat, etc.	If the child is on a prescribed antibiotic for at least 24 hours.	If the child is within the 24 hour frame of starting the antibiotic.

If medication is to be administered at school, the following requirements must be met:

1. The "PARENT CONSENT FOR ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATIONS AND MEDICATION CHART" form must be completed. This is a state licensing requirement, therefore not optional.
2. All prescriptions and nonprescription medications must have the child's name and must be dated.
3. Prescription and nonprescription medications must be stored in the original bottle with an unaltered label. Medications requiring refrigeration must be stored properly. **This includes topical creams such as Arnica, Eucerin, Aquaphor, Cetaphil, etc.**
4. Written consent must be provided from the parent, permitting the child care facility personnel to administer medications to the child.

**Instructions on the medication form/chart shall not conflict with the prescription label or product label directions.**

**Parents providing nonprescription medications that are being used off label for their child must supply a doctor's note with specific directions for the use of the medication.**

**Children must be symptom free without medication (with the exceptions of certain antibiotics after 24 hours listed above) to return to EH.** For example, a child has a fever that is **gone** at 3 PM on Day 1. The child must stay home throughout the next day (Day 2) and be fever free through 3PM. The child may return to school on the morning of Day 3 if they remain asymptomatic since Day 1 at 3PM.

The illness policy has been put into place and is enforced by all staff members of Early Horizons to help stop the spread of germs and viral or bacterial infections that put everyone at risk. Many of the precautionary steps we are taking are recommendations from the Santa Clara County Public Safety Department and physicians who practice in this area. Also, many of the guidelines we have created are in the best interest in keeping all the children of Early Horizons safe and healthy.

Please note that while we encourage families to take their child to see a physician to confirm any illnesses, a doctor's clearance or recommendation to return to school/daycare will not automatically permit your child to return to Early Horizons. Our staff is being trained on health assessments during the arrival of each child, and while we strive to do it as soon as we can, sometimes you may receive a call at any time during the day asking for you to return to pick up your child who we believe is ill and/or contagious. We are more than happy to have a teacher discuss in private any health concerns that they believe your child may have upon your return.

At Early Horizons, we ask that you pick up your child as soon as possible. An ill child who is suspected of being contagious may be removed from any play areas until they are picked up in efforts to stop the spread of any illnesses. If you are unable to pick up your child, we ask that you designate another adult who is on your emergency card to pick up your ill child. If we call you to pick up your child and we do not receive a response or you do not pick up the phone immediately, we will call the next adult on your emergency card that you have provided Early Horizons with for your child. If we speak with you and you do not pick up the ill child within an hour, we will also call the next adult on the emergency card.

We thank you for your cooperation.

**-Early Horizons Admin Team**

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**PLEASE DETACH, SIGN, & SUBMIT THIS ILLNESS POLICY TO EARLY HORIZONS STAFF.**

I also acknowledge that I have read, understand, and will abide by the above named policies, procedures, and instructions.

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Child's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date