Illness Exclusion Versus An Outbreak

Enteric Illness

Scenario	Exclusion	Outbreak Status	Return Policy
One child/staff with 1 episode of enteric symptom(s)* within a 24-hour period	Child/staff must be excluded immediately and sent home	No outbreak to report	Ill child/staff **must** be symptom free for at least 48 hours and no fever is present
One child/staff with 2 episodes of enteric symptom(s)* within a 24-hour period	Child/staff must be excluded immediately and sent home	No outbreak to report	Ill child/staff **must** be symptom free for at least 48 hours and have no fever
Two or more children/staff with 1 episode of enteric symptom(s)* each within a 24-hour period	Children/staff must be excluded immediately and sent home	No outbreak to report	Ill children/staff **must** be symptom free for at least 48 hours and have no fever
Two or more children/staff with 2 episodes of enteric symptom(s)* each, within a 24-hour period, **but no common link within the centre (e.g. not in the same room, etc.)**	Children/staff must be excluded immediately and sent home	No outbreak to report	Ill children/staff **must** be symptom free for at least 48 hours and no fever is present
Two or more children/staff ill with initial enteric symptom onset within a 48-hour period and with a common link within the centre (e.g. same room, etc.). Each child/staff had 2 or more episodes of enteric symptom(s)* within a 24-hour period.	**Children/staff must be excluded immediately and sent home**	**Outbreak definition met.** Contact the health department promptly using our Outbreak Reporting Form and/or call 905-668-2020 to speak with a Public Health Inspector.	**Ill children/staff must be symptom free for at least 48 hours and have no fever**

https://forms.durham.ca/Health/Child-Care-Setting-Outbreak-Reporting-Form

*Symptoms include diarrhea (i.e., loose/watery stool) and/or vomiting

Respiratory Illness

Scenario	Exclusion	Outbreak Status	Return Policy
One child/staff experiencing respiratory symptom(s)**	Child/staff must be excluded immediately and sent home	No outbreak to report	Ill child/staff **must** have symptom(s) improving for at least 24 hours and have no fever
Two or more children/staff experiencing respiratory symptom(s)** within a 48-hour period, **but no common link (e.g. not in the same room, etc.)**	Children/staff must be excluded immediately and sent home	No outbreak to report	Ill children/staff **must** have symptom(s) improving for at least 24 hours and have no fever
Two or more children/staff experiencing respiratory symptom(s)** each within a 48-hour period **with a common link (e.g. same room, etc.)**	Children/staff must be excluded immediately and sent home	No outbreak to report*** **Refer to:** Recommended IPAC Measures During Periods of Increased Respiratory Illness.	Ill children/staff **must** have symptom(s) improving for at least 24 hours and have no fever

https://www.durham.ca/media/d0fbajwo/weecarespringsummer2024.pdf

**Symptom(s) are new, worsening, and not related to other known causes or conditions. Respiratory symptoms include cough, runny or stuffy/congested nose, sore throat, shortness of breath, fever and/or chills.

***The health department is not currently declaring or managing respiratory outbreaks in child care centres.

Durham Region Health Department
Durham Health Connection Line
905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729
Dial 311 (within regional limits)
durham.ca/childcare

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This information is available in accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.