

Communicable Disease Policy

Performance Standard: 1302.47(b)(7)(iii)

A communicable disease is any disease that is infectious. Examples are chickenpox, influenza, and hand, foot, and mouth syndrome.

DACHS will follow the Child Care Center Exclusion List created by the New Mexico Department of Health (www.nmhealth.org/publication/view/general/5037/) to determine if sick children need to be secluded from school. All classrooms will have a copy of this document. Parents/guardians will be contacted right away when their child is exhibiting symptoms of illness. If it is determined that a child must be excluded due to their illness, the parent/guardian will be asked to pick their child up from class. If the cause of illness is unclear, it is the right of the teacher to ask the parent/guardian to remove their child from class until there is a doctor's diagnosis and it is deemed safe for the child to return. Parents of other students will receive a same-day letter stating any exposures in the classroom. Children and families facing an infectious illness will be treated with dignity and respect. Confidential health information will only be shared on an as-needed basis.

All parents of children who have a communicable disease and are not seen by a physician have a legal responsibility to report the disease to the New Mexico Department of Health. This can be done at <https://www.nmhealth.org/publication/view/policy/372/>.

No Live Lice Policy

Performance Standard: 1302.47(b)(7)(iii)

It is DACHS priority to protect the self-esteem of each child and handle each head lice case in a professional and confidential manner. Once it is determined that a child has live lice, the child will not be sent home that day, but **the child may not return to Head Start/ Early Head Start until the day after the lice shampoo treatment.** DACHS will need proof that the treatment was administered from either an empty lice treatment bottle, a picture of the lice treatment being administered, or a prescription receipt from the pharmacy. Not less than 24 hours after treatment, a parent or guardian must accompany their child to Head Start upon return to the classroom. At that time, the child will be rechecked by the Head Start teacher or teacher assistant. The parent or guardian will remain at the school during the re-check. If live lice are still present, the child will be sent home for further treatment and referred to the family physician and/or Department of Health for assistance. Within 7-10 days after the initial treatment, an affected child will need a second treatment. A parent or guardian will accompany their child to Head Start upon return to the classroom. A head lice screening will again be required before final admittance. Parents and guardians of other students will receive a same-day letter stating an exposure in the classroom