



## UTAH COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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### Policy for Dealing with Communicable Disease in the School/Day Care Setting

Controlling communicable disease in the day care and school setting is of utmost importance. Providing a safe, comfortable, and healthy environment facilitates the educational process, encourages social development, and allows children to acquire healthy attitudes toward organized settings.

Children who are ill or feel sick can create difficulties in group settings. An ill child often demands more attention from the teacher or caregiver and cannot fully participate in group or educational activities. Worse yet, the child with a communicable disease may spread the illness to others. This is especially true in the case of medically fragile children. Accordingly, it is essential that educators, parents, and day care providers control the spread of communicable disease by safe, effective, and practical efforts.

The following are conditions of special concern to us for which children should be kept home and when necessary, diagnosed and treated by a licensed clinician before returning to school or day care:

1. **Colds/Flu**

Children with coughing, sneezing, chills, general body discomfort, fatigue, fever, and discharge from the nose and/or eyes, should be kept home until fever is resolved for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medicine) and any yellow or green drainage is resolved.

2. **COVID-19**

Symptoms can be mild-severe and include cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell. Other less common symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea.

**A person testing positive and has symptoms should stay home until:**

- they have had no fever for at least 24 hours (that is one full day of no fever **without** the use of medicine that reduces fevers)
- **AND other** symptoms have improved (for example, when cough or shortness of breath have improved)
- **AND** at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared

**A person who DID NOT have COVID-19 symptoms, but tested positive and has stayed home may return to school under the following conditions\*\*:**

- At least 10 days have passed since the date of their first positive test
- **AND** they continue to have no symptoms (no cough or shortness of breath) since the test.

**\*\*In all cases, follow the guidance of your doctor and the Utah County Health Department.**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

3. **Persistent Cough**

Cough lasting longer than 3-4 days especially if induces vomiting, passing out or a cough that is productive of colored sputum.

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