

Illness Exclusion Policy (Based on guidelines from Public Health)

The health, safety, and well-being of all children, families, and staff are our highest priority. While Pluto Day Care closely follows guidance from Region of Waterloo Public Health and other applicable health authorities, every illness and situation is unique.

Pluto Day Care reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to exclude any child from care if they show signs or symptoms of an illness that may spread to others, if they are suspected of having a contagious illness, or if they are not well enough to safely participate in the normal daily program, including outdoor play. This decision may be made even if a healthcare provider has not yet confirmed a diagnosis or if the illness is not specifically listed in this policy or current Public Health guidance.

To help protect the health and safety of everyone in the centre, Pluto Day Care may require:

- A child to remain at home until they have been symptom-free for a specified period of time;
- A physician's note confirming the child is fit to return; and/or
- Compliance with any additional exclusion or return-to-care requirements established by Public Health or by the Centre Supervisor.

The Centre Supervisor's decision regarding whether a child is well enough to attend the program is final and is made in the best interest of protecting the health and safety of all children, families, and staff.

To help prevent the spread of illness, children **must** remain at home if they experience any of the following symptoms:

Fever

- 38°C (100.4°F) or higher.
- Exclusion applies on the day the fever occurs and the following day.
- The child may return after being fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication.

Enteric (stomach or intestinal) illness (General Exclusion Period)

- Exclusion applies on the day symptoms occur and for a minimum of 2 days thereafter.
- The 48-hour exclusion period restarts with any new episode.
- The child must remain at home for 48 hours after the last episode without the use of medication.

Diarrhea

- Two or more episodes.

Vomiting

- Two or more episodes.

Vomiting & Diarrhea

- One episode of each.

Parent Communication Regarding Illness

Parents/guardians must provide specific symptoms when reporting illness-related absences (e.g., fever, vomiting, diarrhea, persistent cough, or poor sleep due to illness).

Please note:

- General statements such as *"sick"* or *"not feeling well"* may result in the standard exclusion period being applied until additional information is received.
- Children may not attend while symptoms are being masked by medication.
- Pluto Day Care reserves the right to refuse admission to any child who appears unwell.

Failure to follow these guidelines or providing inaccurate or misleading information regarding your child's illness may result in further action, up to and including withdrawal from our program.