

The Early Learning Center team realizes that keeping a child at home may be inconvenient but when every parent cooperates, we minimize the spread of illness. In order to attend the Center a child must be well enough to eat food, interact with others and go outdoors. We ask that you notify us by 9:00 a.m. on any day when the child will not be attending the Center. We thank you for your cooperation

Early Learning Center’s Policy on Influenza-Like Illness

The CDC defines children under 5 years old in child care settings as “high-risk” for influenza and recommend stringent guidelines with longer periods of exclusion (until all symptoms are resolved). Beginning in August of 2009, children with flu-like symptoms will need to be **symptom free for 24 hours** before returning to the center regardless of medications administered. The influenza virus may continue 10 days or more after the fever has abated.

<i>SYMPTOMS of FLU</i>			
<i>Fever (99°F under arm)</i>	<i>Cough</i>	<i>Headache</i>	<i>Sore Throat</i>
<i>Runny/Stuffy Nose</i>	<i>Chills / Fatigue</i>	<i>Body Aches</i>	<i>Vomiting / Diarrhea</i>

It is important to cover coughs and sneezes to minimize affecting others and then wash hands. Proper hand washing is the most important factor in reducing the spread of the illness. Please wash hands upon entering the center and use hand sanitizer when leaving. Children and staff wash hands many times throughout the day. Early Learning Center and Facilities management will direct the appropriate steps to ensure proper cleaning and sanitation of the facility

The Early Learning Center Staff will be closely monitoring all illness and absences. Parents will be asked to state the reason for the absence and questions will be asked regarding symptoms and diagnoses when necessary. Through tracking the number and types of illnesses, we can be more alert to challenges that may arise. The Early Learning Center is required to report any diagnosed or appearance of symptoms of Influenza to the D.C. Department of Health and as required by Georgetown University. The decision to close the facility would be made under the recommendation of the Department of Health, Georgetown Law Center or Georgetown University main campus.

Early Learning Center's General Policy on Illness and Exclusion.

A child with symptoms noted below in a 24-hour period prior to attendance at the Center should be kept at home until symptoms disappear or a physician has documented a non-contagious condition. Should a child develop these symptoms, or abnormal behavior, at the Center, the Director (or designee) may decide the child needs to be cared for at home. Early pick-up is required within one hour from the time the parent is contacted. Parents must assure that they can be reached in the event of an emergency, and be prepared to follow the Director's decision. The child needs home care for at least 24 hours following an early pick-up. If a child's condition (not including Influenza) requires antibiotics or may be contagious, the child must complete 24 hours of treatment, or have a physician's note stating that the condition is not contagious before returning to the Center. A child's attendance may also be denied if center staff sees evidence of contagious conditions remaining, an undiagnosed condition, or skin irritations and rashes. Parents must notify the Center in the event that a child is diagnosed as having any communicable disease/infection as noted in Parent Handbook

<i>SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS or Abnormal Behavior</i>			
<i>Fever (99°F under arm)</i>	<i>Vomiting</i>	<i>Diarrhea</i>	<i>Sore Throat</i>
<i>Frequent Cough</i>	<i>Heavy Running Nose</i>	<i>Frequent Sneezing</i>	<i>Skin Rashes or Irritations</i>
<i>Refusal to Eat</i>	<i>Unusual Fatigue</i>	<i>Excessive Irritability</i>	