

# Amendment to Child Care Licensing Regulation and Family Day Home Standards

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is changing?**

Schedules 1, 2, 4 and 5 of the Child Care Licensing Regulation (AR 143/2008) are being amended. The amendment is to the former sections of the regulation specific to Communicable Disease.

As well, Standard 10C of the *Family Day Home Standards Manual for Alberta* is being revised.

### **What are the new requirements?**

If a staff member of a licensed or approved program knows or has reason to believe that a child is ill, the licence holder/provider must ensure that the child is immediately removed from the program by the parent and that the child does not return to the program until the licence holder/provider is satisfied that the child no longer poses a health risk.

### **What is the definition of an ill child?**

A sick child is defined as a child who is unable to participate in the child care program because he/she is:

- Vomiting, has a fever, diarrhea or a new unexplained rash or cough;
- Requires greater attention than can be provided without compromising the care of other children in the program; or
- Displays any other illness or symptom that a staff member knows or believes may indicate the child poses a health risk to persons on the program's premises.

### **Why is this change being made to the Regulation/Standards?**

This amendment is intended to clarify the responsibilities of a licence holder and family day home agency in identifying and responding to illness in children who are attending a licensed or approved program.

### **When are the changes effective?**

The changes come into effect September 1, 2011.

### **Who does this change affect?**

This change affects contracted family day home agencies and their providers and licensed day care, group family child care, out-of-school care and pre-school programs.

**Where can I get more information?**

A copy of the amended regulation is available on the Queen's Printer web-site at [www.qp.alberta.ca](http://www.qp.alberta.ca).

The revised *Family Day Home Standards Manual for Alberta* will be available on the Ministry's public website and the secure website for contracted family day home agencies as of September 1, 2011.

The Ministry is also publishing a booklet called *Healthy Child, Healthy Child Care: A Guide to Promoting Health and Preventing Illness in Early Learning and Child Care Settings*. The booklet will be available for downloading from our website under the Publications tab at [www.child.alberta.ca](http://www.child.alberta.ca).

**What if a child has a communicable disease?**

The *Public Health Act* requires licensed child care programs to report communicable diseases to Alberta Health Services. A list of contacts is available by going to [www.albertahealthservices.ca](http://www.albertahealthservices.ca) and going to programs and services and selecting Communicable Diseases Control.

**What are the criteria for a child returning to a program after an illness?**

A child may return to a program if the licence holder or provider is satisfied that the child does not pose a health risk to other children or caregivers. A parent may provide a physician note or a parent can report to the licence holder/agency that the child has been symptom free for a period of not less than 24 hours.

**Do we have to report an incident of an ill child to licensing?**

Programs are required to report if an ill child requires the program to contact emergency medical services and/or the child requires overnight hospitalization. Otherwise no report is necessary.

**What is the definition of immediate removal of a child from a program for the purposes of this regulation?**

A parent must arrange for the removal of a child within two hours of initial notification by the program.

**Will a program be required to make changes to its program policies as a result of this change?**

Yes. Programs will be required by April 1, 2012, to update their program plan, (specifically policies on care of ill children and staff orientation) to reflect the amendments.