

Policy Title: Ill Clients	
<b>Policy Owner:</b> Senior Director of Pediatric Therapy <b>Policy Originated by:</b> Program	<b>Date Written:</b> 10/1/13
<b>Applicable Programs:</b> All Programs	<b>Date Reviewed and Approved by PLT:</b> 3/11/14, 12/9/20
<b>Statutory or Regulatory Citation:</b> Minn. R. 4605.7040 Minn. R. 9503.0080	<b>Date Reviewed and Approved by Medical Director:</b> 09/18/15, 10/06/16, 10/19/17, 10/18/18, 11/18/21

**Policy:** It is the policy of St. David's Center that a child/client experiencing certain illnesses recovers at home, both to facilitate the child's/client's recovery and to protect the health and well-being of Staff/Providers, other children, and their families. St. David's will follow any more stringent exclusionary policies as stated by any public health or medical guidance for as long as needed.

**Definitions:**

**"Ill Client:"** means a client with any of the following conditions or behaviors:

1. A reportable illness or condition (as specified in the Minnesota Administrative Rules, as attached);
2. Chicken pox (until the child is no longer infectious or until the lesions are crusted over);
3. Vomiting (two or more times since admission that day)
4. Loose stools (three or more abnormally loose stools since admission that day)
5. Contagious conjunctivitis (pus draining from the eye/"pink eye");
6. Bacterial infection (including, but not limited to, strep throat or impetigo and has not completed 24 hours of antibiotic therapy);
7. Unexplained lethargy;
8. Lice, ringworm, or scabies (that is untreated and contagious to others);
9. Temperature (has a 100° or higher Fahrenheit axillary temperature of undiagnosed origin before fever-reducing medication is given);
10. Undiagnosed rash or a rash attributable to a contagious illness or condition;
11. Significant respiratory distress (such as wheezing, skin color changes with breathing, or obvious struggle for breath);
12. Who is not able to participate in childcare program activities with reasonable comfort or who requires more care than the program staff can provide without compromising health and safety of other children in care.

13. A client that is too ill to attend school or Day Service Programs should not attend Therapeutic Recreation Programs. Nonrelative staff should not work with their client under these circumstances and families should cancel their staff as soon as possible.

**Procedure:**

**1. Early Childhood of Ill Children**

- A. A child with any of the above listed conditions or behaviors is considered ill and may not participate in Early Childhood Programs.
- B. If the child becomes sick while in St. David's Center staff care, the child's/client's parent or guardian will be called immediately.
- C. A sick child will be supervised at all times.
- D. If the child or client is in group care they will be isolated from others in care until parent or guardian arrives.
- E. St. David's Center requires a child's parent(s) and guardian(s) to inform St. David's Center within 24 hours, exclusive of weekends and holidays, when the child is diagnosed by the child's source of medical or dental care as having:
  - i. A contagious reportable disease specified in the attached list;
  - ii. Lice;
  - iii. Scabies;
  - iv. Impetigo;
  - v. Ringworm; or
  - vi. Chicken pox.
- F. St. David's Center will post or give a notice to the parents of exposed children the same day a parent notifies St. David's Center of a child's illness or condition listed in section E immediately above.
- G. St. David's Center will ensure that the health authority is notified of any suspected case of reportable disease as specified in the attached list within 24 hours of receiving the parent's report.

**2. Center and Community Based Therapy and Supports**

- A. Staff should not be exposed to clients or family members who are ill.
- B. If a client (or a client's family member, in the case of community-based therapy and supports) is ill, the client's parent or guardian will notify St. David's Center of the illness and cancel the scheduled service as soon as possible.

- i. Community-based Therapy and Supports Staff are required to inform their Supervisor of any cancellation and may attempt to reschedule the shift directly with the family.
- C. Staff cannot provide services to clients that are hospitalized or in out-of-home placement due to state regulations for Medical Assistance services.
  - i. Staff with a client in the hospital or placed outside of the home will contact his or her supervisor for further instruction.
- D. If Staff's shift is canceled or shortened due to client illness, Staff will receive pay for either the number of hours s/he was scheduled to work or four (4) hours, whichever is less.
  - i. Staff will not be paid for any cancellations after initial notification of illness or if they are notified within 24 hours.
- E. If a client or family member becomes ill during a St. David's Center Staff/Provider scheduled shift/visit, the parent or guardian will be notified.
  - i. In the case of center-based therapy and supports, the parent or guardian will be asked to return to the Center and pick up the client.
  - ii. In the case of community-based therapy and supports, the parent or guardian will be asked to return to the home to care for the client or family member.
  - iii. The St. David's Center Staff/Provider person will care for the client until the parent/guardian returns.
  - iv. If Staff are unable to reach a parent, they will then contact one of the client's emergency contacts.
- F. Infectious or communicable diseases.
  - i. A client's parent(s) or guardian(s) are required to call St. David's Center within 24 hours when the client or family member contracts an infectious or communicable disease, such as influenza, chicken pox, strep throat, scarlet fever, measles, conjunctivitis, pin worms, head lice, etc.
  - ii. In the event of influenza, clients will be excluded from services for seven (7) days from onset of symptoms or 24 hours after fever free, whichever is less.
- G. St. David's Center will notify the commissioner of health of any animal or human bites or reportable diseases, pursuant to the Accident/Incident Policy.

### **3. Return to Care**

Clients may return whenever they are no longer known to be contagious. Typically, this means 24 hours symptoms free (without fever reducing medication), but some illnesses may require different timelines, per medical or public health guidelines.

#### **Violation of this Policy or Procedure**

No or only partial adherence to this policy or procedure may result in noncompliance with current regulatory requirements and subsequent penalties to St. David's Center. Remediation for violators will include, but not be limited to, disciplinary action up to and including termination depending on the circumstances of the situation at the time.

#### **Reference or Attachment:**

[Accident/Critical Incident Policy](#)

[Minnesota Reportable Illnesses List - https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/4605.7040/](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/4605.7040/)