

Document Category	Policy		
Policy Name	Client Health Attendance Policy		
Affected Program(s)	Vista Autism Services		
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Responsible Owner	Chelsea Newlin (Executive Director of Clinical Programs)		
Oversight Approval	Trevor Motley (Chief Operating Officer)		

Purpose: Vista is committed to providing the best possible care to the clients they support. This policy provides guidance for clients in Vista programs in the event they are experiencing an abnormal state of health and as a result are not available for therapeutic services. While the normal state of health will vary, it is recommended that any individual who is not feeling well and is displaying active symptoms should remain at home recuperating, rather than attend their regularly scheduled services.

Policy Statement: It is the responsibility of all team members to ensure clients are in good health prior to initiating their daily activities.

Clients should cancel services or will be sent home from programming if any of the following are observed:

- **Respiratory illness symptoms:** such as cough, runny nose, or sore throat combined with a fever. Services can resume once their fever associated with these symptoms has been gone for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine.
- **Signs of severe illness:** such as being unresponsive, excessively lethargic, irritable, crying more than usual, having difficulty breathing, or has a quickly spreading rash.
- **Fever:** for temperatures over 100 degrees, the individual must cancel services or remain home from programming until he/she is fever free for 24 hours, without fever-reducing medications.
- **Diarrhea:** defined as having more frequent and looser stool than usual that's not caused by a change in diet. Clients should stay home and cancel services if their stool is not contained in the diaper, if they are toilet-trained but having "accidents" from the diarrhea, having more than 2 stools above their normal per 24-hours, or stools that contain more than a drop of blood or mucus. The individual can return to services when they are diarrhea free for 24 hours, without the use of diarrhea suppressing medications.
- **Vomiting:** 2 or more times in the previous 24 hours. The exception is if the vomiting is found to be caused by a non-infectious condition, and the individual is not in danger of dehydration.
- **Abdominal pain that continues for more than 2 hours,** or abdominal pain that comes and goes, along with fever or other concerning symptoms.
- **Mouth sores with drooling that the individual cannot control,** unless their doctor or local health department authority states that the individual is noninfectious.

- **Rash with fever or behavioral changes:** until a primary care provider determines that the illness is not a communicable disease.
- **Skin sores that are weeping fluid:** located on an exposed part of the body that cannot be covered with a waterproof bandage.

Clients who become ill while supported by Vista staff will be assessed and monitored. Vista will advise if it is best for the individual to return home and/or for care to transfer to a parent, guardian, or other non-Vista representative. For clients unable to transport themselves home, a call will be placed first to the identified primary contact and second to listed emergency contacts to locate an individual who can take the individual home, provide supervision in the absence of Vista staff, or seek medical treatment. In the event of a medical emergency, program staff will first contact 911 and then the legal guardian or emergency contact will be notified. It is expected the individual notified will arrange for immediate pick up.

It is understood that a person may not feel well and not display any previously listed symptoms. Therefore, an illness is not limited to observable symptoms.

If an individual has periodic diarrhea or vomiting due to medication side effects or another non-contagious condition, an exception can be made to this with physician documentation.

Required Documentation

An individual who contracts a reportable communicable disease requires a written statement from a physician prior to their return to programming except for COVID-19. Examples of reportable disease include Strep, Chicken Pox, Pertussis, etc. This written statement must contain the diagnosis, any physical limitations, and precautions that must be taken to prevent spread of the disease to other clients. Clients do not need a written statement from a physician for the common cold unless the absence is greater than three or more scheduled days. Clients who are out sick and unable to receive services for three or more scheduled days are required to have a doctor's note containing any follow-up information necessary, to best support them upon their return to programming. Clients who tested positive for COVID-19 can provide a positive test result and do not need a doctor's excuse to return but must follow COVID-19 return procedures.

Clients who are hospitalized require a note from their physician stating the date the individual is allowed to return to programming, with instructions on how to support clients following surgery, in a cast, with crutches, in a wheelchair, etc.

The written statements from physicians must be provided to the program director or their designee, prior to returning to or receiving programming. Each program will specify to whom communication should be directed. This ensures sufficient time to notify relevant team members, program nursing staff, when applicable, and temporary rearrangement of the program design and environment to meet the individual's needs.

It is at Vista's discretion whether programming will be made available to the individual if assessed to be infectious with a communicable disease as defined by PA Code Chapter 27.1.

PA Code Chapter 27.1 Communicable and Non-communicable Diseases defines:

Communicable disease: An illness, which is capable of being spread to a susceptible host through the direct or indirect transmission of an infectious agent or its toxic product by an infected person, animal, or arthropod, or through the inanimate environment. Vista's illness policy reflects the Pennsylvania Department of Health

guidelines for recommended lengths of absence for specific diseases and infectious conditions as outlined below.

Disease/Condition	Signs and Symptoms	Required Length of Absence/Exclusion
Common Cold	Fever, runny nose, watery eyes, fatigue, coughing, and sneezing	Exclusion from programming if individual has symptoms with <i>fever over 100</i> . Must be <i>fever free</i> for 24 hours
Influenza (flu)	Rapid onset of fever, headache, sore throat, dry cough, chills, lack of energy, and muscle aches	Exclusion from programming if individual has symptoms with fever over 100. Must be fever free for 24 hours. With a confirmed case of Influenza, a written note from a doctor is required stating individual is medically cleared to return. Note must be received prior to individual's return.
Conjunctivitis, bacterial or viral (Pink Eye)	Red eyes, usually with some discharge or crusting around eyes	Exclude from programming while symptomatic and until 24 hours of antibiotic treatment has been completed. A written note from a doctor is required stating the individual is medically cleared to return. Note must be received prior to the individual's return
COVID-19	Temperature greater than 100, persistent and productive cough, shortness of breath, new loss of taste or smell, fatigue, body aches, headache, sore throat, and congestion	Exclude from programming until fever is absent for over 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.
Chicken Pox	Fever and rash that may appear first on head, and then spread to body. Usually, two or three crops of new blisters heal, sometimes leaving scabs.	Exclude from programming for at least 7 days after eruptions first appear or until vesicles become dry and crusted <i>over</i>
Meningococcal infections (meningitis)	Sudden onset of fever, intense headache, nausea and often vomiting. stiff neck. and. frequently, a reddish or purplish rash on the skin or mucous membranes.	After effective treatment determined by doctor, fever free for 24 hours and a written note from a doctor is required stating individual is medically cleared to return. Note must be received prior to the individual's return
Impetigo	Blisters on skin, commonly hands and face that open and become <i>covered</i> with yellowish crust Fever does not usually occur.	24 hours after treatment started. If possible, lesions should be always covered
Measles	Runny nose, watery eyes, fever, and dry cough. A blotchy red rash, which usually begins on the face. appears between the third and seventh day.	4 days from onset of rash. A written note from a doctor is required stating the individual is medically cleared to return. Note must be received prior to the individual's return
Coxsackie virus diseases (Hand, Foot & Mouth disease)	Rash in mouth, hands (palms and fingers), and feet (soles).	Exclusion from programming if the individual has symptoms with fever over 100. Must be fever free for 24 hours
Mumps	Swelling over jaw in front of one or both ears. Pain in cheeks made worse by chewing.	9 days from onset of swelling
Fifth Disease Human Parvovirus	Redness of the cheeks and body. Rash may reappear. Fever does not usually occur. An infected person can spread fifth disease during the week prior to the appearance of the rash. When the rash appears, a person can no longer spread the virus to others.	Exclusion from programming not indicated
Pediculosis (Head Lice)	Itching and scratching of scalp. The presence of pinpoint-sized white eggs (nits) that will not flick off the hair shaft and live lice.	Clients must be nit free and lice free. A written note from a doctor is required stating the individual is medically cleared to return. Note must be received prior to the individual's return. The individual must be checked in the presence of a parent prior to their return.
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	Low-grade fever, runny nose, and cough lasting about two weeks, followed by paroxysmal coughing spells and "whoop" on inspiration.	After completion of <i>five</i> days of antibiotic therapy and a written approval from doctor to return to programming prior to the individual' return
Ringworm	Slowly spreading, flat, scaly, ring-shaped lesions on skin. Margins <i>may</i> appear reddened and slightly raised.	24 hours after treatment has begun, If possible, lesions should be covered.
Mononucleosis, infectious (Epstein Barr virus)	Young children are generally asymptomatic. Symptoms, when present, include <i>fever and</i> fatigue. swollen lymph nodes, and sore throat	After effective treatment determined by doctor, fever free and a written approval from the physician to return to programming prior to the individual's return
Scabies	Small, raised, and red bumps or blisters on skin with severe itching. Often the thighs, arms. and webs of fingers.	Exclude programming until 24 hours of appropriate treatment has been completed. A written approval by doctor to return to programming is required prior to the individual's return.

Strep Throat/Scarlet Fever/ Tonsillitis	Fever, sore throat, often with large, tender lymph nodes in neck. Scarlet fever-producing strains of bacteria cause a fine, red rash that appears 1-3 days after onset of sore throat	Twenty-four hours after effective antibiotic treatment has begun and 24 hours fever free.
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Links to additional content or information

Related Relevant Policy	
Related Standard Operating Procedure(s)	
Related Form(s)	