

# ***Review and Approval Of Environmental Health and Safety Policy 4***



		<b>DHS Head Start Program Policy</b>			
<b>EnvHS 4</b>					
<b>SUBJECT</b>		Health & Safety Practices			
<b>REFERENCE</b>		Environmental Health and Safety			
<b>EFFECTIVE</b>		06/05/2011			
<b>Policy Council Approval: 7/28/20</b>		<b>Policy Council Revision: 1/25/22</b>		<b>Governing Body Approval: 8/13/20</b>	
<b>HSAC Approval: 3/7/2023</b>				<b>Governing Body Revision: 2/24/22</b>	
<b>PAGE: 1 of 2</b>					

**Policy:**

The Head Start Program, including the Head Start Grant Recipient, Education Service Providers, and contractors will develop and implement procedures for the prevention and mitigation of infectious diseases and illnesses. Procedures should include:

- Evidence-based practices to control an infectious disease and/or outbreak, including COVID-19
- Notification of any reportable disease/illnesses, as indicated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, State of Texas, the Texas Education Agency, the City of San Antonio Metro Health Department, or School District Health Department Training on accommodations that must be made for children with specific health and safety needs
- Practices to ensure the confidentiality of staff, child, and family health needs
- Safety practices, including mask wearing, vaccinations, and other precautions
- Communication protocol for staff and families, as applicable
- Exclusion criteria:
  - Education Service Providers may temporarily exclude a child with an acute injury or illness from program participation for a short-term period when the child’s needs cannot be readily accommodated or if they pose a significant risk to the health and safety to themselves or others. A child cannot be denied enrollment based on a disability, disease, illness, or chronic health condition.

The Head Start Program will follow guidance from the Office of Head Start (OHS) or recommendations made by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, State of Texas, the Texas Education Agency, the City of San Antonio Metro Health Department, School District Health Department, and/or Caring for Our Children National Health and Safety Standards Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs when establishing procedures related to health and safety practices and the management of disease and illness.

**Performance Standard:**

1302.41(b) 2; 1302.47(b)(6); 1302.47(b)(7)(iii); 1302.47(b)(9); 1302.47(c); 1302.92

**References:**

ACF-PI-HS-23-01 - Supplementary Information on Establishing an Evidence-based COVID-19 Mitigation Policy

Texas Department of State Health Services Communicable Disease Chart for Schools and Child-Care Centers

		<b>DHS Head Start Program Policy</b>			
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<b>EFFECTIVE</b>	06/05/2011				
<b>Policy Council Approval: 7/28/20</b>	<b>Policy Council Revision: 1/25/22</b>	<b>Governing Body Approval: 8/13/20</b>	<b>Governing Body Revision: 2/24/22</b>		
<b>HSAC Approval:</b>					
<b>PAGE: 1 of 1</b>					

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**Policy:**

The Head Start Program, including the Head Start Grant Recipient, Education Service Providers, contractors, will develop and implement procedures for the prevention and mitigation of infectious diseases and illnesses. for children and staff to ensure protection from contagious disease. Procedures should include:

- Evidence-based pPractices to control an infectious disease and/or outbreak, including COVID-19
- Notification of any reportable-reportable disease/iillnessesillnesses, as indicated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, State of Texas, the Texas Education Agency, the City of San Antonio Metro Health Department, or School District Health Department to include local-or-state public health agencies
- Training on accommodations that must be made for children with specific health and safety needs
- Practices to ensure the confidentiality of children’s-staff, child, and family health-and-safety needs
- Exclusion criteria
- Safety practices, including mMask wearing, vaccinations, and other precautions and safety-practices
- Communication protocol for staff and families, as applicable
- Exclusion criteria
- Education Service Providers may temporarily exclude a child with an acute injury or illness from program participation for a short-term period when the child’s needs cannot be readily accommodated or if they pose a significant risk to the health and safety to themselves or others, them.
- A child cannot be denied enrollment based on a disability, disease, illness, or chronic

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health condition ~~or its severity.~~

~~Education Service Providers may temporarily exclude a child with an acute injury or illness from program participation for a short-term period when the child's needs cannot be readily accommodated or if they pose a significant risk to the health and safety to themselves or anyone that may come in contact with them.~~

~~The following requirement regarding masks is pending final action and/or court ruling as of December 31, 2021:~~

~~The Office of Head Start requires all individuals two (2) years old and older to wear a mask during the following: indoors when Head Start services are provided; when two or more individuals are in a vehicle owned, leased, or arranged by the Head Start Program. For those not fully vaccinated, masks are required when outdoors in a crowded setting or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people. A crowded setting or close contact is described as a situation where an individual is within six feet of another individual for 15 minutes or more.~~

~~Masks are not required when children and adults are eating or drinking, children are napping, and when children and adults are outdoors in a non-crowded setting or engaged in outdoor activities that do not involve sustained close contact with other people. There are additional exceptions for individuals who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of: a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act; individuals with special health care needs. The program should follow the advice of the individual's health care provider regarding the best types of face covering.~~

The Head Start Program will follow guidance from the Office of Head Start (OHS) or recommendations made by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, State of Texas, the Texas Education Agency, the City of San Antonio Metro Health Department, School District Health Department, and/or Caring for Our Children National Health and Safety Standards Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs when establishing procedures related to health and safety practices and the management of [disease and](#) illness.

**Performance Standard:**

[1302.41\(b\) 2](#); [1302.47\(b\)\(5\)\(vi\)](#); [1302.47\(b\)\(7\)\(iii\)](#); [1302.47\(b\)\(9\)](#); [1302.47\(c\)](#); [1302.92](#)

**References:**

[ACF-PI-HS-23-01 - Supplementary Information on Establishing an Evidence-based COVID-19 Mitigation Policy](#)

Texas Department of State Health Services Communicable Disease Chart for Schools and Child-Care Centers



## DHS Early Head Start Program Policy



<b>ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY 4</b>			
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Health & Safety Practices		
<b>REFERENCE</b>	Environmental Health and Safety		
<b>EFFECTIVE</b>	01/03/2022		
<b>Policy Council Approval: 5/25/21</b>	<b>Policy Council Revision: 1/25/22</b>	<b>Governing Body Approval: 5/27/21</b>	<b>Governing Body Revision: 2/24/22</b>
<b>HSAC Approval: 3/7/2023</b>			
<b>PAGE: 1 of 2</b>			

### Policy:

The Early Head Start (EHS) Program, including the EHS Grant Recipient, Service Providers, and contractors will develop and implement procedures for the prevention and mitigation of infectious diseases and illness. Procedures should include:

- Evidence-based practices to control an infectious disease and/or outbreak, including COVID-19
- Notification of any reportable disease/illnesses, as indicated by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, State of Texas, Child Care Regulations, the City of San Antonio Metro Health Department, or School District Health Department
- Training on accommodations that must be made for children with specific health and safety needs
- Practices to ensure the confidentiality of staff, child, and family health needs
- Safety practices, including mask wearing, vaccinations, and other precautions
- Communication protocol for staff and families, as applicable
- Exclusion criteria:
  - Early Head Start (EHS) Program Service Providers may temporarily exclude a child with an acute injury or illness from program participation for a short-term period when the child’s needs cannot be readily accommodated or if they pose a significant risk to the health and safety to themselves or others. A child cannot be denied enrollment based on a disability, illness or chronic health condition or its severity

The Early Head Start Program will follow guidance from the Office of Head Start (OHS) or recommendations made by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Child Care Regulation, the City of San Antonio Metro Health Department, and/or Caring for Our Children National Health and Safety Standards Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs when establishing procedures related to health and safety practices and the management of disease and illness.

### Performance Standard:

1302.41(b) 2; 1302.47(b)(6); 1302.47(b)(7)(iii); 1302.47(b)(9); 1302.47(c); 1302.92

**References:**

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<a href="#">HSAC Approval</a>				
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**Policy:**

The Early Head Start (EHS) [Program, including the EHS Grant Recipient, Service Providers, and contractors](#) will develop and implement procedures for [the prevention and mitigation of infectious disease and illness, children and staff to ensure protection from contagious disease](#). Procedures should include:

- ☐ [Evidence-based Practices](#) to control an infectious disease [and/or](#) outbreak, [including COVID-19](#)
- Notification of any reportable [disease/illnesses, as indicated by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, State of Texas, Child Care Regulations, the City of San Antonio Metro Health Department, or School District Health Department](#) ~~to include local or state public health agencies~~
- Training on accommodations that must be made for children with specific health and safety needs
- Practices to ensure [the confidentiality of children’s staff, child, and family health and safety](#) needs
- ☐ [Safety practices, including mask wearing, vaccinations, and other precautions](#)
- [Communication protocol for staff and families, as applicable](#)
- ~~Exclusion criteria~~
- ~~Mask wearing and safety practices~~
- [Exclusion criteria](#)

[Early Head Start \(EHS\) Program Service Providers may temporarily exclude a child with an acute injury or illness from program participation for a short-term period when the child’s needs cannot be readily accommodated or if they pose a significant risk to the health and safety to themselves or others, anyone that may come in contact with them.](#)

- [A child cannot be denied enrollment based on a disability, illness or chronic health condition or its severity.](#)

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~~Early Head Start (EHS) Program Service Providers may temporarily exclude a child with an acute injury~~

~~or illness from program participation for a short term period when the child's needs cannot be readily accommodated or if they pose a significant risk to the health and safety to themselves or anyone that may come in contact with them.~~

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~~Providers will create and implement procedures to ensure that appropriate staff is informed and trained on any accommodations that must be made for children with specific health and safety needs. Information about any child's health or safety needs should be kept confidential.~~

The Early Head Start Program will follow guidance from the Office of Head Start (OHS) or recommendations made by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Child Care Regulation, the City of San Antonio Metro Health Department, and/or Caring for Our Children National Health and Safety Standards Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs when establishing procedures related to health and safety practices and the management of [disease and illness](#).

**Performance Standard:**

~~1302.47(b)(7)(iii); 1302.41(b) 2; 1302.47(b)(56)(vi); 1302.47(b)(7)(iii); 1302.47(b)(9); 1302.47(c); 1302.92~~

**References:**

[ACF-PI-HS-23-01 - Supplementary Information on Establishing an Evidence-based COVID-19 Mitigation Policy](#)

[Texas Department of State Health Services Communicable Disease Chart for Schools and Child-Care Centers](#)

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