

Clostridioides (Clostridium) Difficile (C diff)

Description/Signs and Symptoms: Clostridium difficile, also known as C. difficile or C. diff, is a bacterium that can infect the bowel and cause diarrhea. The infection most commonly affects people who have recently been treated with antibiotics but can spread easily to others through improper handwashing and surface sanitation.

**EXCLUSION:** Students should be excluded from school for diarrhea if:

1. Stool is not contained in the diaper for diapered children.
2. Diarrhea is causing “accidents” for toilet-trained children.
3. Stool frequency exceeds two or more stools above normal for that child, because this may make it difficult for staff to maintain sanitary conditions.
4. Blood or mucous in stools.
5. Stool that is black or very pale.
6. Dry mouth, no tears, or no urine output in 8 hours.
7. Jaundice (i.e., yellow skin or eyes) is present.

**RETURN TO SCHOOL:**

1. A health professional should clear the child for readmission for all cases of bloody diarrhea and diarrhea caused by *Shigella*, *Salmonella*, *E coli*, *Cryptosporidium* or *G intestinalis*, *C diff*
2. In general, diapered children may return when stool is contained by the diaper (even if the stool remains loose) and when toilet-trained children do not have accidents, and
3. May return when free from Diarrhea (2 or more bouts) for 24 hours, and
4. The child must be able to participate, and staff able to care for the child without compromising their ability to care for the health and safety of the other children in the group.
5. Follow all other aspects of the KPBSD symptom free protocol as listed.

**Role of the School Nurse:**

- Ensure that staff are educated about and follow strict and frequent handwashing, diapering, toileting, food handling, and cleaning and sanitizing procedures.
- Instruct staff and students on proper handwashing technique particularly after toilet use and before handling classroom community objects.
- Work closely with teachers, aides and custodial staff to keep the classroom areas properly sanitized.
- Notify Custodial Staff, Administrator and Planning and Operations department to discuss supply needs and cleaning protocols
- Pay close attention to reducing communal exposure to water, such as water tables. Water tables with free-flowing fresh water or individual water bins reduce transmission risk.
- Prevent contamination with human and animal feces.
- Obtain orders from the medical provider as to what is considered normal BMs and what would constitute abnormal regarding the student.
- Consider a school health plan including all known normal and abnormal health information regarding the student
- Assess and inform the custodians if there is a more building wide need for additional cleaning and sanitization (if the student goes to other areas of the school)

## KPBSD Protocol 1/6/2025

### Custodial needs:

- When available, custodian will clean all surfaces immediately after used/exposed with appropriate cleaning agent including changing tables and toilets. This includes cleaning the toilet after a student uses the bathroom until the diarrhea is completely gone.
  - Custodian and/or Planning and Operations department will educate classroom staff to clean and sanitize and provide the appropriate supplies needed for proper sanitation.
- Frequently clean and sanitize frequently touched items such as doors and door knobs.
- Ensure that food preparation areas are cleaned not only with soap & water, but also sanitized.
- Ensure proper sanitation or disposal of contaminated items.