

Identification and Reporting of Outbreaks in Edmonton Area Child Care Facilities

It is important that child care facility staff are always on the lookout for outbreaks of illness in their child care facility. Watching carefully for outbreaks of illness is called “disease surveillance”; it is advised that child care facility staff carry out careful surveillance for the following categories of symptoms in children:

- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Fever
- Cough
- Rash

It is recommended that information on newly ill children be recorded on a log sheet.

What is an “outbreak” of illness?

An outbreak in a child care facility is “**two (2) or more children with the same category of symptoms that started within 48 hours of one another**”.

When an outbreak of any of the symptoms listed above is identified in a child care facility in the Edmonton Zone, it must be immediately reported to the Office of the Medical Officer of Health, Edmonton Zone, Alberta Health Services (AHS):

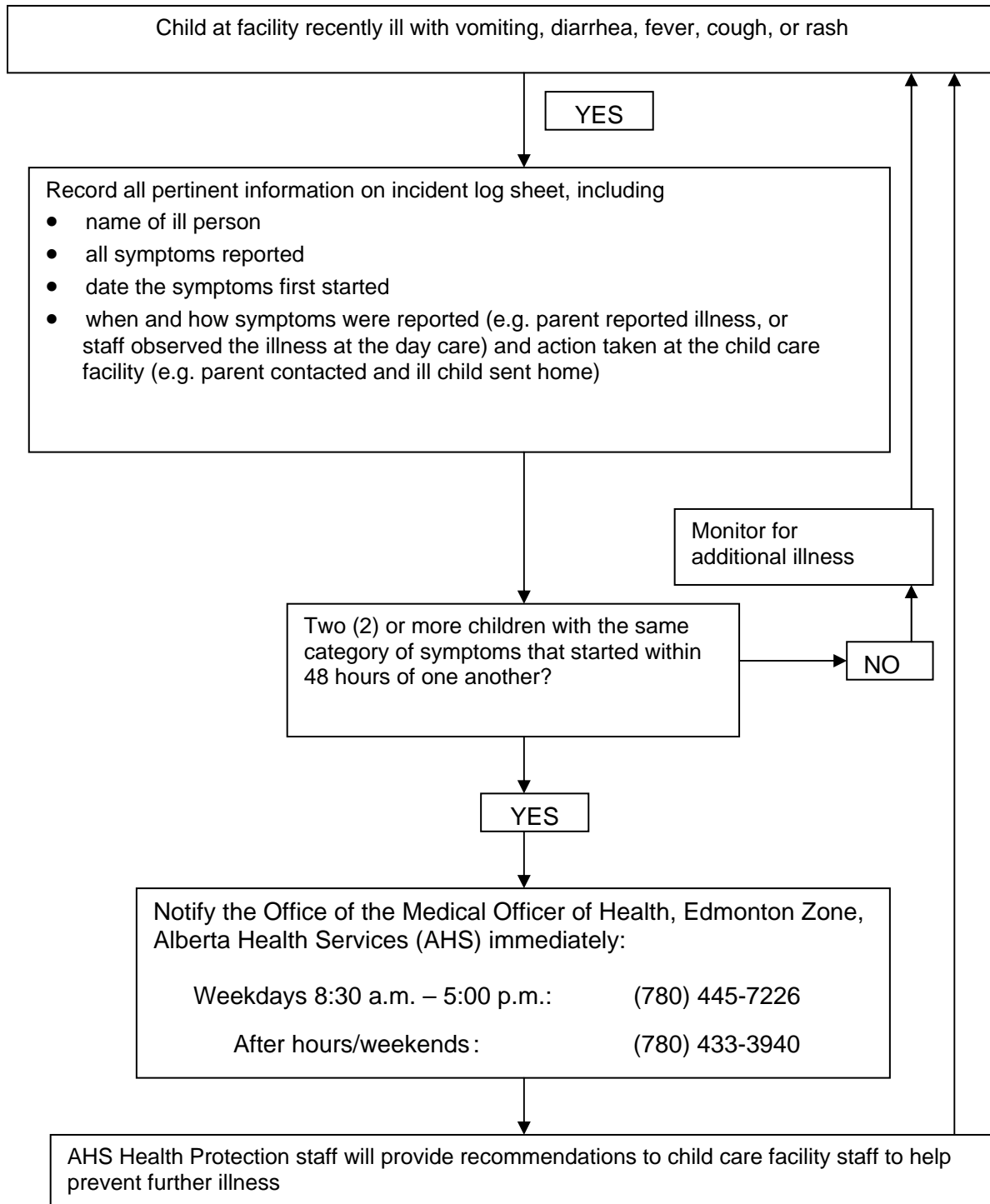
***Monday to Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m (780) 445-7226 pager
After hours or weekends, including statutory holidays (780) 433-3940***

When a potential outbreak is reported, AHS Health Protection staff will assist child care staff in preventing further illness in the facility in a variety of ways. Depending on the nature of the illness, the outbreak may be controlled by:

- providing child care staff with the best information on preventing the spread of illness in the facility.
- drafting a letter to parents (signed by the Medical Officer of Health) informing them of the outbreak, advising them that children not attend any child care facility while ill, and providing information on how to prevent the spread of the illness in their own home.

If appropriate, AHS Health Protection staff may facilitate testing of ill children to determine the cause of the outbreak. In that event, contact information for parents will be requested.

Flow Chart for Identifying and Reporting Outbreaks in Edmonton Area Child Care Facilities



Child Care Facility Illness Incident Log Sheet

Ill <u>child's</u> name	Date illness first observed by or reported to staff	Date of first symptom (if illness first started at home)	Illness symptoms*	Action taken	Name of person documenting incident	Date incident documented
Ill <u>staff member's</u> name	Date illness first observed by or reported to manager/director	Date of first symptom (if illness first started at home)	Illness symptoms*	Action taken	Name of person documenting incident	Date incident documented

*Include all symptoms reported. For fever, include temperature if known.