

# Communicable Disease Control Policy (4.4)

Good Days Adolescent Special Needs Center, LLC – Fort Myers, FL

## Purpose

The purpose of this Communicable Disease Control Policy is to protect the health and safety of all students, staff, and families at Good Days Adolescent Special Needs Center (GDC). This policy establishes procedures for identifying, reporting, and managing communicable diseases in accordance with the Florida Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.

## Section 1: Policy Statement

GDC is committed to maintaining a healthy environment and minimizing the spread of communicable diseases. The Center will take appropriate preventive and responsive measures to ensure that all individuals are treated with compassion, respect, and confidentiality.

## Section 2: Prevention Measures

Preventing the spread of communicable diseases begins with proactive health practices and education. All staff and students are encouraged to follow proper hygiene and sanitation routines.

Preventive measures include:

- Frequent handwashing with soap and water.
- Proper cleaning and disinfection of surfaces and shared materials.
- Promoting respiratory hygiene (covering coughs/sneezes, use of tissues).
- Exclusion of ill individuals from attendance until symptom-free.
- Adherence to immunization requirements outlined in Policy 4.1.

## Section 3: Identification and Reporting

Staff are responsible for observing students for signs of illness and promptly reporting any suspected communicable diseases to the Director. Symptoms warranting attention include fever, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, or respiratory distress.

Reporting Procedures:

1. Staff notify the Director immediately upon observing potential symptoms.
2. The Director contacts the student's parent/guardian and recommends medical evaluation.
3. If a communicable disease is confirmed, the Director will notify the Florida

Department of Health as required.

#### **Section 4: Exclusion from Attendance**

Students or staff diagnosed with a communicable disease shall be excluded from the Center until they are no longer contagious and have received medical clearance to return. A written physician's note may be required before re-entry.

Examples of conditions requiring exclusion include:

- Fever of 100.4°F or higher within the past 24 hours.
- Vomiting or diarrhea within the past 24 hours.
- Strep throat, influenza, COVID-19, chickenpox, conjunctivitis, or similar illnesses.
- Unexplained rash or open sores.

#### **Section 5: Return-to-Participation**

Students or staff may return to the Center once they are symptom-free for at least 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medication, or upon receiving written clearance from a healthcare provider. The Director reserves the right to require medical documentation prior to re-entry.

#### **Section 6: Infection Control Practices**

The Center maintains ongoing infection control protocols, including regular disinfection of high-touch areas, use of personal protective equipment (PPE) as appropriate, and adherence to CDC guidelines during outbreaks or pandemics.

#### **Section 7: Confidentiality**

All information related to an individual's medical condition or communicable disease diagnosis will remain confidential and disclosed only to those who need to know to protect public health, in accordance with HIPAA regulations.

#### **Section 8: Communication with Families**

Families will be informed promptly of potential exposure to a communicable disease while maintaining confidentiality of the affected individual. The Center will provide guidance consistent with health department recommendations.

#### **Section 9: Staff Responsibilities**

All staff members are expected to:

- Monitor students for symptoms of illness.

- Model proper hygiene and sanitation behaviors.
- Report suspected or confirmed communicable diseases immediately to the Director.
- Follow all Center protocols for disinfection and prevention.

### **Section 10: Acknowledgment**

All staff and families must review and acknowledge this Communicable Disease Control Policy during orientation or enrollment. Acknowledgment is documented through the Policy Acknowledgment Form (E1).

Approved: December 2025

Next Review: December 2026