

Date:

Subject: Notice about Giardiasis

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Someone in our child care facility has **Giardiasis**. This illness is caused by a parasite that gets into the intestines by way of the mouth.

The main symptom is greasy, foul smelling diarrhea. There may also be nausea, stomach pains and gas. If the symptoms continue to occur, the child may fail to gain weight or may even lose weight. Many people have no symptoms but still pass the parasite in their stool. It usually takes one to four weeks for a person to become sick after contact with the parasite.

It is spread through the stool of a person or animal who has the parasite. Objects, food or water put into someone's mouth, which have the parasite on them, can cause infection.

The most important way to prevent this illness is by good hand washing. Hands must be washed after using the restroom or changing diapers. Hands must also be washed before preparing food and before eating. Avoid drinking water that has not been treated.

If your child gets diarrhea, keep him or her home. Notify your health care provider. Also tell your health care provider about this letter.

Please let us know if your child gets sick with any of the symptoms.

All infected persons must stay away from the child care facility until the diarrhea is gone.

Sincerely,



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