

When and how long do children with hand, foot, and mouth disease need to be excluded from child care?

Hand, foot, and mouth disease is an illness that is usually mild and is most commonly caused by the coxsackievirus A16 and enterovirus 71. Symptoms include small blisters in the mouth, on the fingers, hands, and soles of feet that usually last more than a week. Cold signs like sore throat, fever, cough, or runny nose may also be present. It may be spread by the respiratory route or the fecal-oral route.

Children should be excluded if the illness

- prevents the child from participating comfortably in activities
- results in a greater need for care than the staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children
- causes drooling
- causes any other exclusion criteria in Minimum Licensing Requirements.

Children can be readmitted when any exclusion criteria are resolved, and the child is able to participate in activities.

Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and Schools. A Quick Reference Guide, 3rd Edition. American Academy of Pediatrics. 2013.