

Rotavirus

Rotavirus is the most common cause of severe, seasonal diarrhea in infants and young children.

Children with a rotavirus infection have fever (often high); nausea; frequent, intense vomiting; and watery diarrhea (gastroenteritis). After two days, the fever and vomiting usually stop, but the diarrhea can continue for five to seven days and sometimes longer. As with all viruses, some rotavirus infections, especially in children and adults who have had a prior rotavirus infection, cause few or no symptoms.

Illness transmission is by the fecal-oral route. Rotavirus can survive on objects and surfaces in child care centers for long periods. Respiratory transmission also may have a role in disease spread. Transmission within families and institu-

tions is common because of the ease of transmission.

To limit the spread of rotavirus infection

- Promote immunization: Rotateq that is very effective in protecting children from rotavirus. The CDC recommends that infants receive three doses of the oral vaccine at two, four, and six months of age.
- Clean and sanitize toys and surfaces.
- Follow proper hand washing procedures.
- Exclude children with rotavirus from childcare centers if the stool can not be contained by diapers or toilet use.

Information provided by the California Childcare Health Program (CCHP), a program of the University of California, San Francisco School of Nursing (UCSF).

Secondhand Smoke Campaign

The Smoke Free Family KC Campaign is an education campaign that targets families with children under the age of five with messages about keeping smoke away from children in the home and the car.

During the April Immunization audits, each childcare center will be receiving materials that encourage parents to quit smoking to reduce the effects of secondhand smoke on children. For more information, visit www.smokefreefamily.kc.org.

IMMUNIZATION AUDITS

Audits are here! Please review your immunization records prior to the visit so your audit goes as smoothly as possible. Centers with 100% compliance on initial audits will be recognized in the June newsletter.

Questions? Call Shawna Jackson at 325-7188



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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