



Division of Environmental Health

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Natural Resources
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June 19, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dennis Salmen
Mecklenburg County Health Department

FROM: Ed Norman
Children's Environmental Health Branch

SUBJECT: Compression glove and handwashing

Similar to a child wearing an arm cast, a child wearing a compression glove will at times require assistance to avoid contamination of the glove and the transfer of contamination to other children, toys, desks, and other contact surfaces. Reasonable accommodations for the health and well being of this child and his or her classmates may include:

1. As required by Rule 15A NCAC 18A .2803, the parent should wash the child's hands upon entry to the child care and put a clean compression glove on the child.
2. Before toileting, staff should cover the compression glove with a disposable glove or reusable vinyl glove. The disposable or reusable vinyl glove should be secured to the child's arm, and it should be removed only after toileting and hand washing is complete. Staff should then wash his or her own hands before returning to activities with other children.
3. Before eating, the child's gloved hand should be covered with a disposable or a reusable vinyl glove. The disposable or vinyl glove should be secured to the child's arm, and it should be removed only after handwashing is complete. Staff should then wash his or her hands. When necessary another clean disposable or reusable vinyl glove can be placed over the compression glove during meals, snacks, and art activities.

The child's physician and the Health Department may be able to provide additional recommendations for proper handwashing procedures for children wearing compression gloves or casts. In this particular case, modifying the handwashing procedures set forth in the administrative rules governing child care sanitation is necessary and should not be overly burdensome for the child care staff.

In any event, the procedures agreed upon by the parents, the child's physician, the child care center, and the Health Department should be put in writing and made available to the child care staff. Copies of the physician's recommendations and the procedures agreed upon, should be placed in a medical file at the Health Department, since the child's medical condition is confidential and is protected under HIPPA and N. C. G. S. § 130A-12.

Cc: Kimly Blount
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