**Yeast Diaper Rash (Candidiasis)**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your child may have been exposed to **yeast diaper rash** while at child care.

**What is yeast diaper rash?**

A shiny red rash, pinker than usual skin, or red bumps in the diaper area that may be caused by yeast called Candida albicans.. There are other causes of diaper rash that produce a similar skin appearance but are not caused by this infection.

**What are the symptoms yeast diaper rashes?**

A yeast infection of the diaper area is very red, often contains red pimples, may be shiny in appearance, and may be worse in skin folds. Sores and cracking or oozing skin may be present in severe cases. Yeast infections of the diaper area may be very uncomfortable.

**How does child get yeast diaper rash?**

Candida albicans is present in the intestinal tract and mucous membranes of healthy people. Yeast thrives in warm places of the body, such as the diaper area. Yeast infections also occur more often in children taking antibiotics and those with weakened immune systems. Repetitive or severe yeast diaper rash could signal immune problems.

**When is a child with yeast diaper rash contagious?**

The incubation period is unknown. The yeast that infects the diaper area is widespread in the environment, normally lives on the skin, and is found in the mouth and stool.

**How can I prevent my child or others from coming down with yeast diaper rash?**

* Wash hands well and frequently.
* .Keep skin in diaper area as clean and dry as possible and reduce friction by frequent diaper changes and exposing skin to air (taking diaper off for periods of time).

**Treatment**

If you suspect your child has a yeast diaper rash infection, consult your child’s healthcare provider for evaluation and treatment. Anti-fungal medicine may be recommended.

**If my child develops yeast diaper rash, must he/she stay away from child care?**

No, as long as child feels well enough to participate in activities and does not require an amount of care that compromises the staff’s ability to care for other children.

This letter was created using the resource, *The AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics). 2008. Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and Schools. 2nd Edition.*