

	West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources				
	MANUAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROCEDURES				
Section	Housing & Institution	Date	July 5, 2011	Procedure #	H-23
Subject	Diaper Changing Procedure In Child Care Centers			Page	1 of 2

Section 9.7 of West Virginia’s legislative rule, Child Care Centers, 64 CSR 21, requires the feces from soiled cloth diapers or training pants to be disposed of by dumping in a toilet.

Since the Child Care Center rule was last revised in 1997, the recommendations of the National Health and Safety Performance Standards from Caring for Our Children have changed regarding diapering procedures, specifically relating to cloth diapers and training pants. Several states and jurisdictions have already implemented these practices. WVDHHR Division of Early Care and Education, Child Care Center Licensing is also implementing this practice at facilities in West Virginia.

- If cloth diapers are used, the diaper should have an absorbent inner lining completely contained within an outer covering made of waterproof material that prevents the escape of feces and urine. An alternative is the use of cloth diapers that contain a waterproof cover that is adherent to the cloth material. If a cloth diaper with a separate lining is used, the outer covering and inner lining should be changed together at the same time as a unit and should not be reused in the child care facility. **No rinsing or dumping of the contents of the diaper shall be performed at the child care facility.** [*Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards: Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs Third Edition - Chapter 3 \(3.2.1.1\)*](#)

Rationale: Gastrointestinal tract disease caused by bacteria, viruses, parasites, and hepatitis A virus infection of the liver are spread from infected persons through fecal contamination of objects in the environment and hands of caregivers/teachers and children. Procedures that reduce fecal contamination such as minimal handling of soiled diapers and clothing, handwashing, proper personal hygiene, and fecal containment in diapered children control the spread of these diseases. Diapering practices that require increase manipulation of the diaper and waterproof covering before it is cleaned and disinfected, present increased opportunities for fecal contamination of the caregivers’ hands, the child, and consequently, objects and surfaces in the environment. Environmental contamination has been associated with increased diarrheal rates in child care facilities.

- If reusable cloth diapers are used, put the soiled cloth diaper and its contents (without emptying or rinsing) in a plastic bag or into a plastic-lined, hands-free covered can to give to parents/guardians or laundry service. [*Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards: Guidelines for Early Care and Educational Programs Third Edition Chapter 3 \(3.2.1.4 Step 4-b\)*](#)
 - Rationale: The procedure for diaper changing is designed to reduce the contamination of surfaces that will later come in contact with uncontaminated surfaces such as hands, furnishings and floors.

- If soiled cloth diapers are used, soiled cloth diapers and/or soiled training pants should never be rinsed or carried through the child care area to place the fecal contents in a toilet. [*Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs Third Edition - Chapter 3 \(3.2.1.2\)*](#)
 - Rationale: Containing and minimizing the handling of soiled diapers so they do not contaminate other surfaces is essential to prevent the spread of infectious disease. Putting stool into a toilet in the child care center facility increases the likelihood that other surfaces will be contaminated during the disposal. There is no reason to use the toilet for stool if disposable diapers are being used. If laundered diapers are involved, the stool can be dumped at the time the diapers are laundered. Commercial diaper laundries use a procedure that separates soiled components from the diapers and does not require prior dumping of feces into the toilet.

Based on these factors, the next revision of our Child Care Center rule will not require the feces from soiled cloth diapers or training pants to be disposed of by dumping in a toilet. **In the meantime, local health departments are advised to waive the requirement for the feces from soiled cloth diapers or training pants to be disposed of by dumping in a toilet.**

A complete copy of the guidelines can be downloaded from the following website:

http://nrckids.org/CFOC3/CFOC3_color.pdf

References: [National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Educational Programs, Third Edition](#)

History

Attachments