

## R430-50-23: DIAPERING

This section gives the rules and information about diapering children in a child care setting. Diapering rules are designed to protect the health and safety of the children and apply to all diapered children regardless of their ages, including the provider's and caregivers' children. A provider's policies on diapering should comply with the requirements of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). For more information about this law, refer to: [www.ada.gov](http://www.ada.gov).

The rules pertain to how often diapered children are changed, the procedures for changing diapers, and the supplies that are used. Diapering rules, as applicable, cover disposable training pants, hybrid diapers, and cloth diapers.

CCL staff will observe a diaper change during an inspection to verify compliance with the rules in this section. When observing the diaper change, they will stand back and out of the child's line of vision in order to help maintain the child's privacy and comfort level while being changed.

When no diapered children are present or awake during the inspection, CCL staff will:

- Document that a diaper change was not observed.
- Observe a diaper change at the next annual inspection.

**If the provider accepts children who wear diapers:**

- (1) **Caregivers shall ensure that each child's diaper is:**
  - (a) **checked at least once every 2 hours,**
  - (b) **promptly changed when wet or soiled, and**
  - (c) **checked as soon as a sleeping child awakens.**

### Rationale / Explanation

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Public Health Association recommend that children's diapers are visually checked at least every two hours, and whenever the child indicates discomfort or exhibits behavior that suggests a soiled or wet diaper. The frequency and severity of diaper rash is lessened when diapers are changed more often. *CFOC 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Standard 3.2.1.3. pp. 105-106.*

### Compliance Guidelines

- Rule defines how often diapers are checked, but not how they are checked.
- Caregivers do not have to wake a sleeping child to check a diaper.
- The 2-hour time for checking diapers begins when the child arrives at the facility.

### Moderate Risk Rule Violation

#### Corrective Action for 1<sup>st</sup> Instance

Citation Warning

- (2) **The diapering area shall not be located in a food preparation or eating area.**

### Rationale / Explanation

The use of a separate area for diaper changing or changing of soiled underwear reduces contamination of other parts of the child care environment. In order to prevent the transmission of

disease, diaper changing areas and food preparation areas should be physically separated. Food and eating utensils should not be washed in sinks located in diaper changing areas. *CFOC 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Standard 5.4.2.4. p. 249.*

#### Compliance Guidelines

- Diapering areas must be at least 36 inches away from food preparation and eating areas.
- An entire table or counter will be considered one area regardless of its size. Therefore, a table or a counter must not be used for both food preparation or eating and diapering.

#### Moderate Risk Rule Violation

##### Corrective Action for 1<sup>st</sup> Instance

Citation Warning

- (3) Children shall not be diapered directly on the floor, or on any surface used for another purpose.**

#### Rationale / Explanation

Changing diapers on surfaces used for other purposes, such as the floor or a couch, increases the likelihood of contamination of those areas. *CFOC 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Standard 5.4.2.4. p. 249.*

#### Compliance Guidelines

- Diapering can be done on the floor, couch, bathroom counter, or other surface as long as it is not directly on that surface. There must be a leakproof, waterproof barrier between the surface and the child being changed. For example, a caregiver may place a leakproof, waterproof changing pad on the floor or counter (except in the kitchen) to change a diaper.

#### Moderate Risk Rule Violation

##### Corrective Action for 1<sup>st</sup> Instance

Citation Warning

- (4) The diapering surface shall be smooth, waterproof, and in good repair.**

#### Rationale / Explanation

The purpose of this rule is to ensure that diapering surfaces can be adequately cleaned and sanitized in order to prevent the spread of disease. It is difficult, if not impossible, to sanitize porous surfaces or surfaces with cracks or tears. Even a small crack somewhere on the diapering surface could allow bacteria to grow. *CFOC 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Standard 5.4.2.4. p. 249.*

#### Compliance Guidelines

- A diapering surface that is in good repair means that there are no tears, cracks, or holes making the surface difficult to sanitize.
- A diapering pad that is repaired with items such as plastic or duct tape, or vinyl glue (if the glue is waterproof when dry) is acceptable as long as the repair is on the underside of the pad and not on the side where a child is changed.
- It is not out of compliance if there is a small crack on the frame of a changing table or other surrounding surface as long as the crack is not on the surface where the child is changed.
- Changing a child on an unused diaper does not meet the requirement of this rule.

#### Moderate Risk Rule Violation

##### Corrective Action for 1<sup>st</sup> Instance

Citation Warning

- (5) **Caregivers shall clean and sanitize the diapering surface after each diaper change, or use a disposable, waterproof diapering surface that is thrown away after each diaper change.**

#### **Rationale / Explanation**

Many infectious diseases can be prevented through appropriate cleaning and sanitizing procedures. Many sanitizers leave residue that can cause skin irritation or other symptoms so caregivers should always follow the manufacturer's instructions when cleaning and sanitizing. *CFOC 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Standard 5.4.2.6. p. 250.*

#### **Compliance Guidelines**

- Cleaning and sanitizing instructions described in "Section 15: Health and Infection Control" must be followed.
- A caregiver must clean any visible body fluid from the diapering surface and then sanitize the entire diapering surface according to the instructions on the sanitizing product being used.
- The surface under the pad does not have to be cleaned and sanitized unless it is visibly dirty.
- Any product that comes with manufacturer instructions for use as a sanitizer may be used.
- Hand sanitizers may not be used to sanitize diapering surfaces.
- Disinfecting wipes (not hand wipes) can effectively sanitize a surface if the surface remains wet for the time designated by the manufacturer.
- A stop watch (or clock, phone, iPad, etc.) can be used to verify that the sanitizer remains visibly wet on the surface for the amount of time listed on the product label. To be in compliance, the time must be within 5 seconds of the manufacturer's required time. If the product is not left on the surface for the required amount of time, the surface will not be sanitized.
- A caregiver should never diaper a child on a surface that is still wet from being cleaned and sanitized. The surface may air dry or, after the sanitizer has remained on the surface for the required amount of time, it may be wiped dry.
- Even when there is only one child who uses the diapering surface, the surface still must be cleaned and sanitized after each use to prevent bacteria and germs from growing on the surface or spreading to another area.

#### **Moderate Risk Rule Violation**

#### **Corrective Action for 1<sup>st</sup> Instance**

Citation Warning

- (6) **Caregivers shall wash their hands after each diaper change.**

#### **Rationale / Explanation**

Many types of infectious germs may be contained in human waste (urine and feces). Touching a contaminated object or surface may spread illness. Handwashing helps prevent the spread of disease-causing agents. *CFOC 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Standard 3.2.3.4. p. 115.*

#### **Compliance Guidelines**

Caregivers must wash their hands with soap and running water after each diaper change.

#### **Moderate Risk Rule Violation**

#### **Corrective Action for 1<sup>st</sup> Instance**

Citation Warning

- (7) **Caregivers shall place wet and soiled disposable diapers:**
- (a) **in a container that has a disposable plastic lining and a tight-fitting lid,**
  - (b) **directly in an outdoor garbage container that has a tight-fitting lid, or**
  - (c) **in a container that is inaccessible to children.**

#### **Rationale / Explanation**

When waste containers are plastic-lined and enclosed or are removed from areas occupied by children, odors are contained and children are prevented from coming into contact with body fluids. *CFOC 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Standard 5.2.7.4. p. 226.*

#### **Compliance Guidelines**

- Flip top or swinging lids on diaper containers are acceptable.
- Diapers may be placed in any container, for example a plastic bag, as long as the container is inaccessible to children.
- Providers may diaper several children, one right after the other, and then properly dispose of all the diapers at the same time. However, handwashing must be done after each diaper change.
- Hybrid diapers such as, gDiapers ([www.gdiapers.com](http://www.gdiapers.com)), are part disposable and part reusable. Caregivers should not flush the insert, but treat it the same as a disposable diaper and properly discard it as described in this rule. The outside cover of the hybrid diaper should be treated as a cloth diaper.

#### **Moderate Risk Rule Violation**

##### **Corrective Action for 1<sup>st</sup> Instance**

Citation Warning

- (8) **Indoor containers where wet and soiled diapers are placed shall be cleaned and sanitized each day.**

#### **Rationale / Explanation**

The diaper container should be cleaned daily to keep it free from a build-up of soil. This standard prevents noxious odors and the spread of disease. *CFOC 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Standard 5.2.7.5. p. 226.*

#### **Compliance Guidelines**

- The inside of the container needs to be cleaned and sanitized as well as the outside parts that a caregiver touches when they dispose of a used diaper.
- If a provider uses a diaper genie according to the manufacturer's instructions, the inside of the container does not need to be cleaned and sanitized daily.

#### **Moderate Risk Rule Violation**

##### **Corrective Action for 1<sup>st</sup> Instance**

Citation Warning

- (9) **If cloth diapers are used:**
- (a) **they shall not be rinsed at the facility; and**
  - (b) **they shall be placed directly into a leakproof container that is inaccessible to any child and labeled with the child's name, or placed in a leakproof diapering service container.**

#### **Rationale / Explanation**

Containing and minimizing the handling of wet and soiled diapers so they do not contaminate other surfaces is essential in preventing the spread of infectious disease. Rinsing a cloth diaper or putting stool into a toilet in the child care facility increases the likelihood that other surfaces will be

contaminated. *CFOC 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Standard 3.2.1.2. p. 105.*

### **Compliance Guidelines**

- Caregivers may rinse soiled diapers in toilets that are inaccessible to children in care, and/or rinse the cloth diapers after children in care leave for the day.
- Caregivers may machine wash and dry cloth diapers at the facility as long as wet or soiled diapers are inaccessible until they are cleaned.
- A caregiver may flush the content of a soiled diaper in the toilet before placing the diaper in the leakproof container.
- Plastic grocery and other plastic bags may be used to contain cloth diapers as long as the bags are leakproof. Grocery or other plastic bags with holes in the bottoms or sides cannot be used because they are not leakproof.
- The container does not need to be labeled if put into a child's labeled diaper bag or cubby as long as the diaper bag or cubby is inaccessible.
- If a provider only cares for children from one family, they are not required to label the leakproof container holding the used cloth diaper, but it must be inaccessible.
- It is not out of compliance for the caregiver to throw away wet or soiled cloth diapers with parental permission.

### **Moderate Risk Rule Violation**

#### **Corrective Action for 1<sup>st</sup> Instance**

Citation Warning