

Your child may have been exposed to:

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Herpes (Cold Sores)</h2>	<p>Herpes simplex is a viral infection that may cause sores in the mouth or on the lips and face. The sores are commonly called cold sores.</p>
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**If you think your child has Cold Sores:**

- Tell your childcare provider or call the school.
- **Need to stay home?**

**Childcare:**

**First infection: Yes,** as long as young children that drool have active sores. They can return when the sores in the mouth have healed.

**Recurring infections: No.**

**School:**

**No.**

**Symptoms**

The first time a child is infected, there may be blister-like sores inside the mouth and on the gums. A child may have a fever and be fussy. The cold sores and fever blisters may occur many times in a person's life.

If your child is infected for the first time, it may take 2 to 14 days for symptoms to start.

**Spread**

- By having direct contact with saliva, commonly by kissing.
- By touching the fluid from the blisters or sores.

**Contagious Period**

First infection: up to 2 weeks, sometimes longer.  
Recurring infection: usually 3 to 5 days.

**Call your Healthcare Provider**

- ◆ If anyone in your home has symptoms of oral herpes infection.

**Prevention**

- Remind children not to touch the sores.
- Wash hands after touching anything that could be contaminated with secretions from the mouth or the sores. Your child may need help with hand washing.
- Clean and disinfect objects that come in contact with the sores or secretions from the mouth. Use a product that kills germs.
- DO NOT kiss a person with sores on or near the mouth.
- Use a cotton-tipped swab to apply medication.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

<p>Kentucky Department for Public Health Frankfort, KY          Kentucky Regional Poison Center Louisville, KY          Lake Cumberland District Health Department Somerset, KY          The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Atlanta, GA</p>	<p><a href="http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/">http://chfs.ky.gov/dph/</a>          EMERGENCY: 1-800-222-1222  <a href="http://www.lcdhd.org">www.lcdhd.org</a> (606) 678-4761          Toll free: 1-800-311-3435 <a href="http://www.cdc.gov">www.cdc.gov</a></p>
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