



Dear Parent or Guardian:

Your child may have recently been in contact with someone who has candidiasis, also called a yeast infection, thrush, or moniliasis. This illness is caused by a yeast-like fungus called *candida albicans*. Infections are typically found in the diaper area, nails, mouth, and areas where the body forms folds of skin. Thrush, a yeast infection of the mouth, appears as white patches resembling milk curds and cannot be wiped away. A yeast infection in the diaper area looks like diaper rash and appears as raised, dots or blotches that are sore and red.

*Candida albicans* yeast are found everywhere, especially on people's skin. People who are taking antibiotics are at a higher risk of developing a yeast infection. To prevent the illness from spreading, employ excellent hand washing techniques. Skin infections, especially diaper rash caused by candidiasis, are usually treated with a nystatin powder or cream. Change diapers often and try to keep the affected skin area clean and dry.

If you believe your child has developed candidiasis, contact your medical provider. Notify your child care provider immediately after the diagnosis has been made. Children with candidiasis may return to child care after they have begun treatment. You can also contact the Snohomish Health District's Communicable Disease Outreach program at 425.339.5278 for assistance.

*This letter was printed from the Snohomish Health District's website. If your child's caregiver has provided you with this notice and you have additional questions, call Communicable Disease Outreach at 425.339.5278. This letter is reviewed annually. This document is not valid after 06/2012.*