

# ILLNESS POLICY

Young children frequently become mildly ill and contract a yearly average of six respiratory infections (colds) and one to two gastrointestinal infections (vomiting and/or diarrhea). Please let us know if your child is absent due to illness or infectious disease and inform us of the symptoms. We may require a doctor's note saying that your child is healthy enough to attend or return to school.

## Guidelines for Keeping Your Student Home

The beginning of any infectious illness is usually the time it is most likely to spread to others and is also the time your student is probably feeling unable to participate in class. In order to keep everyone healthy, keep your student home if he or she exhibits any of the following:

- Fever, vomiting, or diarrhea: Your student should remain home until at least 24 hours after being symptom free (or fever-free without the use of fever reducing medicine).
- Colds / respiratory viruses: Keep your student home at the beginning of a cold. This is the time when one is most infectious and least likely to feel well enough to participate in class. When s/he feels better and no longer has frequent sneezing and cough, it is permissible to return to school.
- Generalized skin rash: Any student with an *undiagnosed* skin rash must consult a health care provider for diagnosis and/or treatment before returning to school with a doctor's note
- Other signs of contagious illness: Students who cannot participate comfortably and as usual in activities should remain home until feeling better.

**A student will be sent home from school if he or she has any of the above conditions, requires more care than can be provided by the staff, or has a temperature of 100°F or more and is feeling unwell. Illness at school is “as determined by staff.”**

**The 24-Hour Rule:** Children must stay home until they have remained symptom-free (and fever-free without the aid of fever reducing medicines) for at least 24 hours.

ILLNESS/DISEASE	EXCLUSION IS NECESSARY
<b>Diarrhea</b>	<b>Yes</b> —children may be sent home if feeling unwell or after 2 episodes <u>or</u> if diarrhea is not contained by the child's diaper or pull-up.
<b>Chicken Pox</b>	<b>Yes</b> —until blisters are dry; may return on the 6 <sup>th</sup> day after start of rash
<b>Conjunctivitis</b>	<b>Yes</b> —until 24 hours after treatment
<b>Coxsackie Virus</b> (foot & mouth)	<b>No</b> —child may attend unless unable to participate in activities
<b>Fifth's Disease</b>	<b>No</b> —once rash appears, child not contagious
<b>Head Lice</b>	<b>Yes</b> —until the day after treatment
<b>Strep Throat</b>	<b>Yes</b> —until 24 hours after treatment with antibiotics
<b>Hepatitis A</b>	<b>Yes</b> —until 1 week after onset of jaundice and when able to participate
<b>Herpes</b>	<b>Yes</b> —if area is oozing and cannot be covered
<b>Impetigo</b>	<b>Yes</b> —until 24 hours after treatment starts
<b>Ringworm</b>	<b>Yes</b> —may return after treatment starts
<b>Roseola</b>	<b>Yes</b> —seek medical advice; a child with a rash and no fever may attend
<b>RSV</b>	<b>No</b> —unless unable to participate; once a child is infected, spread is rapid
<b>Scabies</b>	<b>Yes</b> —until the day after treatment begins
<b>Mild cold symptoms</b> (mild cough, runny nose with clear discharge)	<b>No</b> —may attend if able to participate
<b>Upper Respiratory Complications</b> (fever, ear pain, yellow-green nasal discharge)	<b>Yes</b> —seek medical advice and decide whether child may return
<b>Vaccine Preventable Diseases</b>	<b>Yes</b> —until judged not infectious by doctor
<b>Yeast Infections</b>	<b>No</b> —may attend if able to participate; practice good hand-washing and hygiene