

**St. Michael’s Preschool Illness Policy**

Updated: August 2022

It is inevitable that children get sick. Toddler and pre-school aged children have the highest incidences of communicable disease. Making the decision that a child is too sick to attend school can be a complex one. These guidelines will let you know what our considerations will be if we need to determine whether or not your child will be able to attend school or if the child needs to leave school due to illness during the day.

We feel that careful examination of these rules will prevent the spread of illness and will help reduce the severity of those illnesses which cannot be entirely prevented. The Contra Costa Health Department has helped us set these guidelines, which are for the protection, health and safety for all children and staff. Please remember that the center has to consider not only the individual child, but the health of other children in our care.

**Exclusion from school**

1. Your child will be **UNABLE TO ATTEND SCHOOL** if they have any of the following symptoms **WITHIN THE LAST 48 HOURS**: **Fever, vomiting, unidentified rash, diarrhea, lethargy, head lice or nits, respiratory illness symptoms (runny nose, cough, congestion) or excessive allergy symptoms.**
2. If your child exhibits any COVID symptoms such as fever, cough, runny nose, congestion, lethargy, we ask that the stay home until *ALL* symptoms have subsided *AND* one of the following:

A. A negative SARS-CoV2 test (home tests are now accepted)

B. Quarantine for 5 days if vaccinated and 10 days if unvaccinated. Retest on day 5 or day 11.

C. A healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are from an underlying health condition such as asthma or allergies.

1. If your child is prescribed antibiotics for an illness, they must have taken the correct dose for a full 24 hours before returning to school; unless they have a doctor’s note stating it is ok for the child to attend school and *if and only if* the illness of not contagious or infectious.

**Sending a child home from school**

We will use the following criteria to determine if it is necessary to have you pick up your child during the day and to maintain a safe environment for all our children:

\*Fever of 100.4 or above

\*Diarrhea one time accompanied by a fever of 100.4

\*Diarrhea two times in one day even without a fever of 100.4

\*Vomiting one time accompanied by a fever of 100.4

\*Vomiting two times in one day even without a fever of 100.4

\*Excessive runny nose, cough or congestion

\*Unidentified rash

\*Head Lice or Nits

\*If your child has a fever or symptoms of an illness not stated above (lethargy, pale, flushed, stomach pains, etc.) the staff will contact you and discuss whether or not your child needs to go home.

**Dispensing Medication**

If your child needs to be given any medication during center hours, we are required by California State Law to have on file the following: Directions of use, written permission from the prescribing physician (a prescription labeled bottle is ok), written permission from the parent or guardian. To be allowed to distribute medication to your child on our site, we must have a copy or the original prescription from the medical health provider that prescribe the prescription.

\***This includes all inhalers, and EPI- pens.**

No medication will be given to a child at school without a physician’s written permission. No over the counter medicine will be given.

**Storing Medication:**

All medicine is stored on top of or inside the refrigerator, and is to be signed off in our medication log with medication dosage, time of dosage, dates need to be given, and a parent or guardian signature as well as a staff member’s acceptance of the medication.

*Each child will have a wellness check done at drop off and throughout the day, and each child will be evaluated by a teacher or the Director. Sending a sick child home for meeting one of the illness policy criteria will be at the Director’s discretion.*

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Please sign and return:

**Illness Policy**

I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, have read and agree to follow this policy.

Parent signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_