

SUBJECT: Medical or Sick Policy for Exclusion from School

**Policy for Dealing with Communicable Disease in the School/Day Care Setting**

Controlling communicable disease in the day care and school setting is of utmost importance. Providing a safe, comfortable, and healthy environment facilitates the educational process, encourages social development, and allows children to acquire healthy attitudes toward organized settings.

Children who are ill or feel sick can create difficulties in group settings. An ill child often demands more attention from the teacher or caregiver and cannot fully participate in group or educational activities. Worse yet, the child with a communicable disease may spread the illness to others. This is especially true in the case of medically fragile children. Accordingly, it is essential that educators, parents, and day care providers control the spread of communicable disease by safe, effective, and practical efforts.

The following are conditions of special concern to us for which children should be kept home and when necessary, diagnosed and treated by a licensed clinician before returning to school or day care:

**1. Colds/Flu**

Watery discharge from nose and eyes, sneezing, chills, general body discomfort, or if there is a fever or yellow or green drainage from eyes or nose it is particularly important to keep the children home.

**2. Diarrheal Diseases**

An increased number of stools compared with the child's normal pattern with increased water and/or decreased form which may be accompanied by nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramping, headache, and/or fever. If any kind of stool softeners (fleets, enema, laxative, etc.) are administered, please keep student home for at least 12 hours.

**3. Impetigo**

Blister-like skin lesions or oozing or crusted sores could be Impetigo which **MUST** be diagnosed and treated with antibiotic for at least 24 hours before the child may return to school.

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