



## 2020-2021 GENERAL ILLNESS POLICY

### Illness

Please report any contagious diseases in your family so the staff and other parents can be alerted. When your child has a fever, diarrhea, or vomiting, they must be kept home until they have been free from symptoms for **at least 24 hours**.

Please call the school to report any prolonged absence or unusual illness that might spread through a class. Remind children to wash hands with soap and water and to cover their mouths when sneezing or coughing (hand sanitizer can be used if there is NO soap or water available).

### Students and Staff While at School

- If a student or staff member has a fever of 100.4 they will be sent home.
- If a student or staff member has diarrhea 3 or more times \*regardless of reason\*, he or she will be sent home. If there is a legitimate illness, diagnosed by a physician, for why a person has diarrhea, and that diarrhea is not contagious, we will accommodate the situation on an individual basis.
- Vomiting episodes of 3 or more times will warrant a phone call to pick a student up from school or staff to be sent home.
- Temperatures will be taken if the child feels warm to the touch or complains of feeling ill. After a 15-30 minute wait, the temperature will be rechecked. If there is still a fever 100.4 degrees or higher, the parent will be contacted to pick up the student.
  - There is a 30-45 minute window for someone approved on pick-up or emergency list to pick up a student. If no one answers the telephone call, email or returns messages within 5 minutes of attempting to contact primary guardians then people on the contact list will be called. If the school is not able to get in contact with anyone after 1 hour of attempts, then EMS or DCFS will be notified.
- If a student has any of the following symptoms, they should remain home:
  - Chicken Pox: watery blisters appearing on the scalp, face or body.
  - Diarrhea: 3 loose, watery bowel movements with one or more additional symptoms: Fever (as defined above), abdominal pains, lethargy, vomiting, unable to console
  - 3 loose, watery bowel movements with no additional symptoms
  - Eye Infections: red eyes, discharge from tear ducts, swollen eyelids, crusted or matted eyes- Symptoms that indicate Pink Eye.
  - Rashes: Unexplained rash on all or part of the body - If it is eczema or a non-contagious rash, such as Psoriasis, the student will be accommodated. If it is a rash of unknown origin, the student should stay home until diagnosed by a



physician. If a student develops a rash at school the student will need to be picked up.

- Ear Infections: Pain in-ear, fever of at least 100.0 degrees (auxiliary), fussiness, pulling on-ear.
- Nasal Discharge: Any nasal discharge that is not clear, accompanied by fever, irritability or lethargy.
- Lice: Itching or scratching of scalp, white pinpoint eggs (nits) that will not flick off.
- Vomiting: 1 vomiting episode, with one or more additional symptom(s) (If vomiting is self-induced the student will stay in school):
  - Fever, abdominal pains, lethargy, unable to console
  - Three vomiting episodes, with no additional symptoms within 24 hours.

### **Students in Functional Skills**

Students in functional skills will abide by this policy. Accommodations will be made for diagnosed medical conditions by physician's orders. These accommodations should be specified in the student's IEP. Our school nurse reserves the right to make recommendations regarding whether or not a student should be sent home based on possible signs of illness (changes in behavior, refusal to eat or drink, changes in bowel or bladder habits, etc.)

### **Students Returning to School**

- The child may return to school when they are free of fever, diarrhea, or vomiting for 24 hours (without medication), or with a doctor's note.
- If the child has been placed on medication or antibiotics, they must receive 24 full hours of medication starting with the first dose they are given.
- If a child or staff has lice, this should be treated at home with approved shampoo or treatment approved by the Food and Drug Administration. Precautions should be taken to avoid spread, including restricting items such as combs, brushes and hair products (rubber bands, bows, hats, etc.) to personal use.
- If a student returns to school with continuing cough, fever, diarrhea, or any other symptom that keeps the student unfocused on classwork, a phone call will be made to either pick the child up or give verbal permission to treat the student with over the counter medication.

### **Medical Excused Absence**

Parents and Guardians are allowed to excuse up to Five (5) tardies or absences ***per term***, which includes medical absences, **unless** you provide an official doctor's note which states the reason and dates for absence. If a student has a medical condition that significantly affects their attendance, classwork or safety at school additional medical forms are required which can be found at <https://www.spectrumcharter.org/medical-information>



### **Miscellaneous**

If daytime or emergency contact phone numbers change during the year, please notify the front office immediately.

These guidelines are meant to serve the best interests of all the children and staff in our school. Please know that teachers and paraprofessionals must abide by the same policies, regardless of the inconvenience. Our goal is to keep everyone safe and healthy while in the care of Spectrum Academy staff.

Below is contact information if you have questions or concerns:

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