



## Wee Lad & Lassie and A Child's Garden Illness Policy



### ILLNESS POLICY

In general, we define three reasons to exclude sick children:

1. The child does not feel well enough to participate comfortably in routine activities
2. The child requires more care than the staff is able to provide without compromising the health and safety of the other children
3. The illness is on the list of diagnosed symptoms or conditions for which exclusion is recommended (see below), usually because of the chance of spreading.

The National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that children with the following symptoms should be excluded from childcare/preschool either to reduce the risk of spreading the infection, or to allow children the time to recover to the point where they can be safely cared for.

- ★ Change in temperature accompanied by behavior change
- ★ Lethargy, uncontrolled coughing, unexplained irritability or crying, difficulty breathing, wheezing, or other unusual signs of severe illness
- ★ Blood in stools
- ★ Diarrhea (watery, less formed, frequent stools) not explained by diet change or medication and that poses a risk to others because it cannot be managed successfully by diapers or toilet use.
- ★ Vomiting two or more times in a 24-hour period
- ★ Persistent abdominal pain
- ★ Mouth sores in a drooling child
- ★ Rash with fever or behavior change
- ★ Pus coming from the eyes (purulent conjunctivitis)
- ★ Persistent honey-colored crusts (impetigo) on face or body
- ★ Children pox, even in a vaccinated child
- ★ Scabies or head lice until treated

In addition, children who have been medically diagnosed with certain conditions are excluded, and a note from the medical provider is required before a child is allowed to return. Common diagnoses that are in this category include:

- ★ Strep throat
- ★ Tuberculosis
- ★ Whooping cough (pertussis)
- ★ Mumps
- ★ Hepatitis A
- ★ Measles
- ★ Rubella
- ★ Herpes Simplex

If a child becomes ill during the day, we will contact the parents. If we are unable to reach you, the people designated as emergency contacts will be called. Your child may be brought back to school when they are free of fever or other symptoms listed above for 24 hours. If your child visits their pediatrician and is not contagious, they may return before the 24 hours has elapsed, provided we have a doctor's note.

For those emergencies requiring immediate medical attention, your child will be taken to the nearest emergency hospital in the company of a staff member. Every effort will be made to contact the parents, guardians, and the child's physician.

Dr. Ginsburg, pediatrician, is the physician on-call for our schools. She is located at 844 Ritchie Hwy, Suite 206, Severna Park, MD. The phone number is 410-647-8300. Parents may designate the physician of their choice, but we retain the right to consult or call Dr. Ginsburg in the event that the family physician is not available.

### **Supplemental Illness Policy due to Covid 19**

This supplement is meant to provide a plan to protect staff, children, and their families from the spread of COVID-19 and has been developed using the guidance of the CDC and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). This is a living and evolving document that will be updated and revised as new information and guidance becomes available. Please read and

follow the guidelines in this plan carefully to protect the health of our learning community. In addition, please review and follow the illness policy that is currently in effect. If you have any questions about this document or the updated policies and procedures, please contact the program office.

### **Staying Home When Sick**

Staff and students/children who have symptoms of an infectious illness such as COVID-19, influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and gastrointestinal infections, should not attend or work in a school or child care program and should be tested for COVID-19 if appropriate. Staff and families are instructed to notify the school or child care program when a staff or student/child has a reportable infectious disease, including a positive test for COVID-19. It is recommended that persons with symptoms of COVID-19 should be tested. If the test is negative, they may return when symptoms are improved and they have no fever for 24 hours without medication

### **Staff or Child Tests Positive for Covid 19**

All persons who test positive for COVID-19 or have suspected COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, should complete isolation as follows:

- \* Stay home for at least 5 full days from the date of symptom onset if symptomatic or from the date of the positive test if no symptoms. Day 0 is considered the day symptoms started in symptomatic persons or the day of the positive test (based on the date of testing) if asymptomatic.
- \* After day 5, if the person has no symptoms or if symptoms are improved and they have had no fever for at least 24 hours without medication, they may return to school or child care if they have a **negative test at day 5 or later; otherwise, they should remain at home for day 6 through day 10.**
- \* A negative test at day 10 or after is not needed to return.

### **Contact Tracing and Quarantine of Close Contacts**

Universal contact tracing is no longer recommended in schools and child care programs. When a COVID-19 case has been identified in a staff member or a student/child.

- \* The staff member with COVID-19 or family of the student/child with COVID-19 is encouraged to notify their own/their child's close contacts.

- \* Schools and child care programs should provide notification of the COVID-19 case to the school or child care community at the cohort level (e.g. classroom, grade, sports team, bus route, etc.).
- \* Staff and students/children who may be close contacts, regardless of their vaccination status, can continue to attend school and child care as long as they remain asymptomatic.
- \* A test at 3-5 days after exposure is recommended, especially for those who cannot wear a mask (ex. children under 2 years of age).