



Policy for Dealing with Communicable Disease in School

Controlling communicable disease in the 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 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 and parents 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:

1. Colds/Flu:

Children with coughing, sneezing, chills, general body discomfort, fatigue, fever, and discharge from the nose and/or eyes, should be kept home until fever is resolved for 48 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medicine) and any yellow or green drainage is resolved.

2. COVID-19:

Symptoms can be mild to severe and include cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell. Other less common symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea.

A person who tests positive with or without symptoms should stay home until they have met the criteria as posted by the Utah County Health Department. <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/education/>

3. Persistent Cough:

For coughs lasting longer than 3 – 4 days (especially if induces vomiting, passing out or a cough that is productive of colored sputum) please contact your primary healthcare provider and remain home until cough subsides and return when instructed from your healthcare provider.

4. Diarrheal Diseases

An increase in the number of bowel movements compared with the child's normal pattern with watery or unformed stools which may be accompanied by nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramping, headache, and/or fever should be resolved for at least 48 hours before returning to school. If any kind of stool softeners (fleets, enema, laxative, etc.) are administered, please keep student home for at least 24 hours.

5. Impetigo

Blister-like skin lesions and oozing or crusted sores should be evaluated by a healthcare provider and treated with an antibiotic for at least 24 hours before the child returns to school.

6. Pink-Eye or Conjunctivitis:

Symptoms of conjunctivitis include redness, discharge from eye, matted eyelashes, and burning or itching eyes and should be evaluated by a healthcare provider. The individual must have the symptoms resolved or be treated with a topical antibiotic for at least 24 hours before returning to school.

7. Open Wounds or Sores:

Wounds that are open or draining should be kept covered with a dressing.

8. Vomiting:

Nausea with emesis. Must be free of vomiting for 48 hours prior to returning to school or 72 hours if Noro Virus suspected.

9. Strep Throat or other bacterial infection:

Should be treated with an antibiotic for at least 24 hours, and fever-free for at least 24 hours.

10. Temperature over 100.4

Must be afebrile for 48 hours (without the use of medicine that reduces fevers) before returning to school.

11. Skin Rash:

Presence of any skin rash that might be due to an infection should be evaluated by a healthcare provider or resolved before returning to school.

It would be greatly appreciated if children with these problems could bring a note from their healthcare provider when they return to school.

If your student is absent due to an illness, it is your responsibility to contact the school in accordance with Treeside Charter School's Attendance Policy.