

CHDS Health Policies (October '09)

CHDS is committed create an environment where children are safe and healthy. In an effort to keep your child safe and healthy, and to prevent the spread of illness to other children, we have revised our policies regarding health concerns among our students. As per advice from our Medical advisors, children with conditions or symptoms seen below will be treated as indicated.

It should additionally be noted that sometimes a child may be deemed unfit to remain in school without being categorized definitively. Our staff is entrusted to determine when a child seems too sick to remain in class, due to lethargy or otherwise being unable to be involved in normal class activities. In such cases, it is not only the spread of disease or sickness that is the prime concern, but also our concern that such a child should be resting in a home environment, rather than remaining in a classroom.

1. For children coming to school with cold-like symptoms:

(a) If a child has a runny nose, and the mucus is clear in color, a child is not to be sent home unless this persists beyond two days (assuming that the child otherwise feels fine). At that point, parents are encouraged to check with their Doctors to see if the symptoms are allergy related, and if so, to recommend treatment to avoid the spread of germs at school. If, however, the runny nose is to the extent that a copious amount of mucus is getting on surfaces that other children come in contact with, children should be sent home, and should only return with a Doctor's ok.

(b) If a child has a runny nose and the mucus has a yellow or green color, the child should be sent home, to allow the sickness to run its course.

(c) If a child has a persistent cough, they should be sent home, since this is a primary mode in the spreading of illness. However, if the cough is mild (and the child is feeling well enough to remain in class), the child can remain in school- preferably by wearing a mask (which the school supplies).

2. **Strep throat-** Children must stay home until they have been on antibiotics for 24 hours.

3. **Pink eye (conjunctivitis)** - children do not need to be sent home; parents should be contacted to get them evaluated by their pediatrician. Preschoolers will be coached on frequent hand washing to help prevent the spread of illness.

4. **Vomiting-** parents will be contacted, and in most cases, children should be sent home to help prevent the spread of illness.

5. **Diarrhea-** parents will be contacted, and in most cases, children should be sent home to help prevent the spread of illness.

6. **Fifths disease (slapped cheek syndrome)** - children do not need to be sent home.

7. **Scabies-** Children only need to be out of school while they are being treated by their doctors, and then they can return to school.

8. **Lice-** Children need to be nit-free in order to return back to school. An exception to this rule may be made by the school if a child has already been treated, is being combed daily and a very small number of nits are found- if they are clearly dead and far from the scalp.

7. **Pinworms-** Children can stay in school. If there are cases of infection, teachers will encourage more diligence with hand washing with soap and water, and other parents will be notified to be on the alert for symptoms in their children.

8. **Ear Infections-** Children can stay in school.

9. **Hand foot and mouth disease-** Children can only return to school when they are fever and symptom-free.