

Countryside Montessori Illness Policy

Countryside works with King County Health Department to help protect children from spreading communicable diseases. Sending children home and keeping children home when they are too sick for childcare protects other children and our staff from potential illnesses. We refer to "Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and Schools" by the American Academy of Pediatrics for non-common illness and diseases and follow the criteria to exclude a child from attending.

FEVER:

Parents/Caregivers will be contacted to pick up their child when your child has a temperature of 101 degrees Fahrenheit or higher or a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit accompanied by one of the following: diarrhea, vomiting, earache, headache, signs of irritability, sore throat, rash, or fatigue.

Your child may return to school when they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicine (i.e. Children's Tylenol).

VOMITING:

Parents/Caregivers will be contacted to pick their child up if your child has vomited 2 or more occasions within the past 24 hours. You will receive an FYI call after the first vomit, in case you need to make arrangements or schedule a doctor visit.

Your child may return to school when they have been vomit free for 24 hours.

DIARRHEA:

Parents/Caregivers will be contacted to pick up their child when the child has had 3 or more watery stools within the past 24 hours or any bloody stool. A FYI call will be made after the 2nd, in case you need to make arrangements or schedule a doctor visit.

Your child may return to school when they have been diarrhea free for 24 hours.

COLDS:

When a child has a mild cold, as long as she/he is active, behaving normally, and has no other symptoms, she/he can be at school. However, a bad cough, cold symptoms that linger and thick green mucus may indicate a virus, bronchitis, flu or pneumonia and warrant your child recover at home.

Your child can be at school as long as they can keep up with program activities.

RASH:

A rash of unknown origin is considered contagious. An open rash that is oozing or growing is especially concerning. We will mark the area. Consult your doctor to determine the cause and communicability.

Your child may return to school when either the rash has subsided, you have a doctor's note indicating they are not contagious or have been on antibiotics for 24 hours.

EAR INFECTIONS:

Your child needs to be at home if their ear infection includes fever. Without fever, a child can attend but medical treatment and follow-up may be necessary. Untreated ear infections may cause permanent hearing loss.

Your child can be at school as long as they can keep up with program activities.

EYE INFECTIONS:

Parents/Caregivers will be contacted to pick up their child if their eyes have both red coloration and green/yellow mucus/pus drainage from their eye.

If your child has been diagnosed with pink eye (conjunctivitis) they must be treated with antibiotics for at least 24 hours and excessive drainage must have subsided before returning to school or your child's physician can provide a note that the eye infection is not contagious.

LICE/SCABIES:

Parents/Caregivers will be contacted to pick up their child when lice/scabies has been discovered on their body.

Your child may return to school when no lice or nits (lice eggs) are present or until after treatment for scabies has been administered for at least 24 hours.

STREP THROAT:

Parents/Caregivers will be contacted to pick up their child if strep throat is suspected due to observed symptoms. A severe sore throat with fever and headache could indicate strep throat. Strep Throat is a bacterial infection requiring medication.

Your child may return to school after being on medication for 24 hours and is fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicine (i.e Children's Tylenol).

STAPH INFECTION

Parents will be contacted to pick up if a Staph infection is suspected due to observed symptoms such as red bumps that progress to pus filled boils or abscesses.

Your child may return after being on antibiotics for 24 hours if the infected area shows it is healing and the infected area remains covered while in our care, or if your child's physician can provide a note that it is not Staph or any other exclusionary illness.

SICK APPEARANCE / BEHAVIOR:

Abnormal tiredness, paleness, confusion, or irritability are sufficient reasons to keep your child at home as it limits participation in daily activities.

Your child can be at school as long as they can keep up with program activities.

Please remember that bringing a child to school with any of the above symptoms puts other children, their teachers and parents at risk of getting sick. If all parents keep their children at home when they are sick, we will have stronger, healthier and happier children.

Our Health Nurse has informed us that we cannot mask children's illnesses with medication. In other words, a child with a 102 degree fever in the morning is still sick even if Tylenol brings down the fever. Please avoid giving your child medication to mask symptoms before arriving at school. When the medication wears off, we are no longer able to re-dose your child and will call you to pick them up.

While we regret any inconvenience this may cause, in the long run this means fewer missed days, healthier children and less illness for parents too.