

First Presbyterian Weekday School Illness Policy

Dear Parents/Caregivers:

Help your child, and all the children at the WDS, stay healthy and ready to learn!

While we hope that your child never has to miss school because of illness, illness is a reality in group care. The WDS Illness policy on page 2 of this document explains how long ill children should stay out of school and what is needed before returning. Below are some guidelines and quick reference questions to help you determine if your child should stay home due to illness. We hope this guidance is helpful, but we also ask that you reach out to the Director and your child's teacher at the onset of illness to discuss possible exclusion from and return to school.

Questions to Consider When Your Child is Sick:

1. Does your child's illness keep him/her from comfortably taking part in activities?
2. Does your sick child need more care than the staff can give without affecting the health and safety of other children?
3. Could other children get sick from being near your child?

If the answer to any of these questions is "Yes", please keep your child out of school.

Should my child stay home?

A Quick Reference for Parents/Caregivers of Children

Cough

A mild cough does not necessarily mean that a child needs to stay home. Your child will need to stay home if the cough is constant, causes shortness of breath, problems breathing, or if they have a fever.

Diarrhea

Keep your child home if he/she has had loose stools in a 24-hour period. Your child may return when they have not had loose stools for a full 24-hour period and stool is contained in the diaper for diapered children.

Vomiting

Keep your child home if unexplained vomiting has occurred in a 24-hour period. Your child may return when there has been no vomiting for a full 24-hour period and no additional symptoms have presented.

Fever

Keep your child home for a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher. Your child may return when they have been fever free for a full 24-hour period **without** using fever-reducing medicine.

Rash

Keep your child home if the rash is associated with change in behavior, fever, tenderness, oozing, or is an open wound that can't be covered.



Illness

Children in group care will become ill from time to time. The School strives to keep infection controlled by using proper sanitizing procedures and by following a strict illness policy. Parent cooperation is vital in making these efforts successful. ***Please notify the School when your child contracts a communicable illness, such as COVID-19, flu, strep, pink eye, chicken pox, etc.***

COVID 19

First Presbyterian Weekday School is following the most recent CDC and Mecklenburg County Health Department – Division of Schools Guidelines. If a child or family member becomes ill with COVID 19, or has been exposed to COVID-19, please notify a member of the FPC Schools Administrative Staff. For the Weekday School, please notify Lauren McCrory lmccrory@firstpres-charlotte.org and Anita Bennett abennett@firstprescharlotte.org. Notification to staff and other families may be made following HIPPA regulations.

Any child whose physical condition appears such that it could affect the health of that child or the other children in the School will not be permitted to stay on campus. The following symptoms or conditions warrant **immediate exclusion** from the classroom environment and the child may not return to the School until the child has been symptom and fever free for a **full 24 hours** and/or Doctor's note, depending on symptoms:

1. **Fever** of 100.4° or more and/or accompanied by other symptoms such as COVID 19 symptoms (*reference FPC School's Illness Policy and Travel Restriction Policy for a detailed listing*), uncontrollable discharge from nose, eyes or ears, lethargy, irritability, constant crying, difficulty breathing, diarrhea, vomiting;
2. **Strep**: excluded for a full 24 hours after testing positive for strep and beginning antibiotics as long as fever free;
3. **Influenza**: excluded until 24 hours after fever subsides;
4. **Loose stools**: child will be excluded from school for a full 24 hours and no recurring symptoms;
5. **Vomiting**: child will be excluded from school for a full 24 hours and no recurring symptoms;
6. **Pink Eye**: child will be excluded from school until has been on prescription ointment for a full 24 hours; Doctor's note required;
7. **Hand Foot and Mouth (HFMD)**: child (and possibly siblings) will be excluded from school until fever is gone + a full 24 hours and blisters have dried-up (dried/healing sores or rash may still be visible);
8. **Ringworm / Impetigo**: exclude until 24 hours after treatment has started; Doctor's note required before returning;
9. **Rash/hives** (unexplained): Doctor's note required before returning;
10. **Scabies or Head Lice**: child may return to school after conclusion of first treatment;
11. **Thrush** (in the case of infants);
12. Other contagious/communicable illnesses.

Return to School: Children who become ill during the school day will not be permitted to return until a **full 24-hour period** has passed. Children who's 24-hour period ends after the start of the school day cannot return until the next scheduled school day.

Some illnesses will require medical attention and treatment before a child can return to school. We reserve the right to request a negative COVID-19 PCR test and/or physician's note before allowing a child to remain in and/or return to school. A child may continue to be excluded, regardless of a physician's recommendation, at the Director's discretion to ensure the health of all children and staff.

***** Please do not provide fever reducing medications to your child prior to arriving at the WDS campus. If your child requires fever reducing medications, they should remain at home until they have been without fever reducing medications for a full 24 hours. *****

In the event of abnormal behaviors such as sustained irritability, continuous crying and/or anything requiring more attention than a teacher is able to provide without neglecting or endangering the other children in the class, the School reserves the right to require the child to be picked up by a parent or other emergency contact.

If contacted by the School to pick up a sick child, parents are responsible for doing so promptly. The School does not have the resources to care for a sick child and cannot expose other children to potential contagions. In case of an emergency, the School will attempt to reach (*in the following order*): parents, emergency contact listed on the child's emergency-card, physician, and hospital (*if necessary*).

If either parent or the emergency contact cannot be reached, we will secure any necessary medical treatment or care that's warranted. **Be sure to keep cell phones turned on and/or check voice mail and emails frequently in case we need to reach you. Please make sure we have the most updated contact information for all people listed on the emergency-card.**

Medication

FPC Schools staff will no longer administer medications to children. This includes nebulizers, ear/eye drops, pain relieving medications and/or other oral medications. The following exceptions may apply:

- Epi-pen and Benadryl in the case of Food Related Allergies. Parents will need to complete an Allergy Action Plan Form.
- Seizure Disorder Related Medications. Parents will need to complete a Medical Action Plan- Seizure Form.
- Asthma Inhalers. Parents will need to complete a Medical Action Plan- Asthma Form
- Diaper Ointment/Cream. Parents will need to complete a Medication Administration Permission for Over-the-Counter Topical Medications form.

Sunscreen and bug repellent should be applied before arriving at school in the morning.