

# Updated Illness Policy at Growing and Knowing Academy

We ask all parents to please be mindful of sick children. We ask all parents to refrain from sending in sick children--this will help to keep our center healthy! The policy states that your child must be symptom free for 48 hours before they can return to the center. If your child has a fever, vomiting or diarrhea they cannot be at the center. Also, please remember coughs and colds can also make for a rough day. Please DO NOT medicate your child and send them to school.

In addition, children that have asthma, please make sure you have given us any medication your child needs throughout the day and have signed a medication permission form allowing us to administer medication.

Please use good judgement when making your decision to send or not send your child to school for the day. Every effort is taken to reduce the spread of illness by encouraging hand washing and other sanitary practices **(If your child is unable to participate in the normal activities of the school (including being able to play outside), then your child MUST stay home.**

Lastly, any child sent home for an illness must adhere to the 48 hour illness policy. A child sent home with an illness cannot return to the center for the 48 hour period or until the child no longer exhibits symptoms. Example, if a child is sent home on a Tuesday-the earliest your child can return to the center is Friday-as long as they are 48 hour symptom free. Violations of this policy will not be accepted and your child will not be allowed to return to the center earlier. Please remember-this is the best defense in combating and eliminating the threat of this virus.

## Communicable Diseases and Exclusion Requirements

If a child has been detected with the diseases listed below, a DOCTOR'S NOTE is required to return to school and the following steps need to be taken:

- **CHICKEN POX (VARICELLA):** The child may return to school 7 days after the rash begins or when all the chicken pox blisters have formed scabs.
- **PINK EYE (CONJUNCTIVITIS):** The child must be sent home from school if pink eye is suspected. The child may return to school. If positively diagnosed, 24 hours after starting the antibiotic with a doctor's note.
- **HAND-FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE (COX SACKIE):** Notify the school of infection. Children will not be able to attend the center with rashes that are not dried or scabbed over. Children also must be 24 hour fever free before returning to the center with a doctor's note.
- **LICE (PEDICULOSIS):** If lice are identified in school, the child will be sent home immediately. The child may return to school once treatment is completed. The entire school will be checked.
- **RINGWORM:** Lesion must be covered if the child is in school and has not yet begun treatment. If treatment has been started and the lesion is shrinking, the child may return to school without any lesion coverage.
- **SCABIES:** The child will be excluded from school for 24 hours after treatment has been completed.
- **IMPETIGO:** The child will be excluded for 24 hours after treatment has begun and the lesion(s) no longer have a discharge. Classroom desktops should be thoroughly cleaned and any toys that are generally shared among other children should be disinfected. Children will not be able to attend the center with rashes that have not yet dried or scabbed over.
- **STREP INFECTIONS:** The child must be excluded for 48 hours after beginning antibiotic therapy and 24 hour fever free with a doctor's note.
- **FIFTH DISEASE:** The child is no longer contagious once the rash breaks out. Diagnosis of the disease is primarily made once the rash appears. The school should be notified of this infection. Children cannot attend the center if the rash is an open sore and has not dried up or scabbed over. Once the rash has dried up and scabbed over they may return with a doctor's note.
- **COMMON COLD AND MISCELLANEOUS ILLNESSES:** The child **MUST** be fever free for 48 hours before returning to school following any illness. If your child was sent home because of diarrhea, vomiting,

or fever they MAY NOT return to school the next day. They MUST be kept home until they are 48 hours symptom free.

### **COVID-19**

Persons that have a fever of 100.4 (38.00C) or above or other signs of illness shall not be admitted to Growing and Knowing Academy. As parents, please be on the alert for signs of illness in your children and keep them home when they are sick.

As a licensed center, we include the information collected during the screening process in the daily log report to the Office of Licensing.

If children, staff, or parents develop COVID-19 or symptoms:

Staff or children with a fever of 100.4 F or higher, cough, or shortness of breath should be excluded from childcare centers and stay away from others. Children with household members who are known to have COVID-19 should also be excluded from the centers.

- If a child or staff member develops symptoms of COVID-19 while at the facility (e.g. fever of 100.4 or higher, cough, shortness of breath), we will immediately separate them from the well people until the ill person can leave the facility.
- If symptoms persist or worsen, call your health care provider for further guidance. Advise the employee or child's parent or caregiver to inform the facility immediately if the person is diagnosed with COVID-19.

Children or staff members who test positive for COVID-19

- If we learn of a COVID positive case within Growing and Knowing Academy, we will contact the local health department for guidance. See [www.localhealth.nj.gov](http://www.localhealth.nj.gov) for contact information.
- If Growing and Knowing Academy has a confirmed case of COVID-19 among our population, we may close temporarily (e.g., for 5 days - or longer if advised by health officials). The duration may be dependent on staffing levels, outbreak levels in the community and severity of illness in the infected individual. Symptom-free children and staff should not attend or work at another facility during the closure.

If an individual believes they have had close contact to someone with COVID-19 but are not currently sick, they should monitor their health for fever, cough, and shortness of breath during the 10 days after the last day they were in close contact with the sick person with COVID-19. They should not go to work or childcare and should avoid public places for 10 days.

**Payment:** If the school closes due to governor mandate, then you are still required to pay to finish the month. If you have to be quarantined, you are required to pay.