



## FriendShip Preschool Health Policy

FriendShip Preschool is a well-child school. Out of consideration for the entire FriendShip community, children displaying signs of illness should be kept home. Though we strive to keep our classrooms clean, wash hands frequently, and teach our students how to avoid sharing germs, illnesses can spread quickly in a school setting. An ill child may also be uncomfortable and/or have trouble participating in school.

- If your child is not feeling well, please keep him/her home from school.
- Please notify both the Directors and your child's teacher as soon as possible if your child will be out of school.

The primary criteria for keeping a child home are:

- a condition that prevents a child from participating comfortably in school activities.
  - Ex. a cough that is so persistent that it interrupts work or play because he/she must stop to 'cover' or 'catch' the cough; or a runny nose that requires frequent wiping followed by handwashing.
- a condition that requires teachers to provide an amount of care that disrupts their teaching, the care of other children, and/or that puts the health and safety of other students and staff at risk.
- condition that presents a risk of spreading a harmful disease to others.

Below is a list of common signs and symptoms of illness that may require a student to stay home from school.

- Cold symptoms including cough, headache, sore throat, fatigue, nasal and/or chest congestion, especially if accompanied by a fever
  - If no fever is present, symptoms are improving, and the child is feeling well, he/she may return to school. If the cough is persistent, or nasal discharge requires frequent wiping, he/she should stay home until symptoms improve.
- Fever (temperature above 100 degrees F) with or without other symptoms
  - A child may return to school once his/her temperature has returned to normal for more than 24 hours WITHOUT the use of fever-reducing medication and any symptoms present are improving.
- Nausea, abdominal pain, vomiting, or diarrhea
  - In the case of vomiting, the child should remain home for at least 24 hours after the last time he/she vomited.
  - In the case of diarrhea, the child should remain home for at least 24 – 48 hours after symptoms have improved, or until a doctor provides a note stating that it is safe to return.
  - If a fever is present, the fever must also be resolved for at least 24 hours for the child to return, even if other symptoms have improved.



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- Rash
  - A child should be kept home until rash is gone or the child's doctor has cleared him/her to return to school. A note from the doctor stating that the rash is not contagious should be provided to the school upon his/her return.
- Strep Throat
  - A child should remain home until fever has resolved and at least two doses of antibiotics given 12 hours apart have been administered.
- Pink Eye
  - A child should remain home for 24 hours after the start of antibiotics, or until a doctor clears them to return.
- COVID-19
  - If a child is exposed or tests positive for COVID-19, his/her parent/guardian must follow current CDC guidance for isolation instructions.
  - Inform the Director of your child's status and confirm the date on which your child may return to school.

\*If your child has an illness other than what is listed here, consult with your child's doctor and the Director for further guidance.

If a child exhibits symptoms at school, or arrives at school exhibiting any of these symptoms, the school will notify the parent/guardian and request that the child return home until symptoms have resolved or improved as directed above.

To return to school, the child must meet the criteria listed above or provided by the Director AND be well enough to participate comfortably in all activities, including outside play.

No medication can be given at school, but please notify the staff if your child is taking any medication. This includes cough drops and throat lozenges. Please don't send your child to school with cough drops, throat lozenges, or something similar. If your child requires this, it is best that he/she be kept home.

Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation in our efforts to reduce the spread of illness and keep our school community healthy!