

Pilgrim Community Preschool Health Policy

Observing good health practices will protect children and staff. The cooperation of parents in following health policies is essential. An infected child can spread germs to other children and teachers. Germs can be left on equipment. The risk of infection is higher for toddlers because they naturally put objects in their mouths and are not yet toilet-trained.

There will be times when a child may not be extremely ill, but may not feel well enough to interact with groups of children. **Parents should use their judgment and consult with the child's teacher when in doubt.**

Other times, a child may be too ill to attend child care. To cut down on cross infection and to ensure a speedy recovery, we are unable to care for children with any of the following symptoms:

- **Fever**
- **Conjunctivitis (pink eye) – and any undiagnosed discharge of the eye**
- **Rashes or mouth sores that cannot be identified or that have not been treated by a physician**
- **Impetigo**
- **Diarrhea**
- **Vomiting**
- **Severe cold with fever, sneezing and nose drainage**
- **Head lice**
- **Contagious diseases (mumps, measles, scabies, chicken pox, etc)**

Parents will be notified immediately to pick up the child if any of the above symptoms occur. The child will be separated from the class to prevent spreading of germs. **A prompt response by parents is essential.** A reasonable amount of time (**approximately one hour**) will be allowed for parents to pick up the child. If parents cannot be reached, or do not respond to the pick up call, the emergency contact on the child's enrollment form will be notified. In the event that a child is exposed to a communicable disease away from the program, we ask that parents notify us immediately. We can then determine the wisest course of action regarding exclusion from the program and notification of other parents.

If a child is kept home due to illness during the week, we ask that parents contact the program to let us know.

After a child has been ill, he/she may return when all of the following conditions are met:

- **Child has been symptom free and fever free for 24 hours**
- **Child can participate comfortably in all usual program activities**
- **Child has been treated for symptoms, with medication, for at least 24 hours**
- **Child with bacterial infections or strep throat must be fever free for at least 24 hours, and on medication for a full 24 hours**

Please note that it is the decision of the Director, in consultation with a child's teacher, as to whether a child should stay at the program for the day or need to go home to rest.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Director's Signature: _____ Date: _____