

# POLICY FOR DEALING WITH COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

Walden School is committed to upholding the health of all students. The following health policy outlines Walden's strategy to promote wellness. The policy has been created in collaboration with the state and county health departments and its standards follow state and local recommendations for creating healthy classrooms.

<b>HOW SICK IS TOO SICK FOR SCHOOL?</b> <b>Symptoms to look out for when getting ready for school:</b>	
<i>Stay at Home</i>	<i>Go to School</i>
If your child has one or more of the following:	If your child meets ALL of the following:
<b>Fever</b> of more than 100 degrees	<b>No Fever</b> without fever reducing medication for at least 48 hours
<b>Sore Throat</b>	<b>No Cough.</b> An occasional cough is okay if no other symptoms are present
<b>Persistent Cough</b>	<b>No Strep Throat</b> for at least 24 hours
<b>Vomiting and/or Diarrhea</b> within the last 24 hours	<b>No Vomiting or Diarrhea</b> for at least 48 hours
<b>COVID-19</b> Positive test OR recent exposure	<b>COVID-19 Free</b> - No symptoms or recent exposure
<b>Other Illnesses</b> that prevent participating comfortably in class	

Controlling communicable disease in the school setting is of utmost importance.. Providing a safe, comfortable, and healthy environment facilitates the educational process, encourages social development, and allows children to acquire healthy attitudes toward organized settings.

Children who are ill or feel sick can create difficulties in group settings. An ill child often demands more attention from the teacher or caregiver and cannot fully participate in group or educational activities. Worse yet, the child with a communicable disease may spread the illness to others. This is especially concerning for medically fragile children. Accordingly, it is essential that educators and parents control the spread of communicable disease by safe, effective, and practical efforts. Parents of a student who exhibits symptoms of illness including fatigue that significantly impacts a student's ability to participate in educational activities will be called to pick up the child from school.

The following are conditions of special concern to us for which children should be kept home as well as minimum requirements for when they should return. When necessary children should be diagnosed and treated by a licensed clinician before returning to school:

### **1. Colds/Flu**

Children with coughing, sneezing, chills, general body discomfort, fatigue, fever, and discharge from the nose and/or eyes, should be kept home until fever is resolved for 48 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medicine) and any yellow or green drainage is resolved.

### **2. COVID-19**

Guidelines for addressing COVID-19 cases change as the understanding of the disease increases. Walden School is committed to keeping our students and staff healthy and will follow the latest guidelines. At the start of the 2023-24 school year, we ask that students who contract COVID-19 stay home for 5 days and are fever free for 24 hours before returning. It is recommended that the student wear a mask for an additional 5 days if possible.

### **3. Persistent Cough**

New cough or unexplained cough, especially if it is accompanied with other sick symptoms, produces colored sputum, limits participation, induces vomiting, breathing difficulty, or passing out. If a mild cough lingers 48 hours past an infectious period, and does not meet any of the criteria in this policy, we recommend wearing

a mask while at school and evaluation by a doctor to determine if they are able to participate fully in school activities or have a possibility of spreading illness.

#### **4. Diarrheal Diseases**

An increase in the number of bowel movements compared with the child's normal pattern with watery or unformed stools which may be accompanied by nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramping, headache, and/or fever should be resolved for at least 48 hours before returning to school. If any kind of stool softeners (fleets, enema, laxative, etc.) are administered, please keep students home for at least 24 hours.

#### **5. Impetigo**

Blister-like skin lesions and oozing or crusted sores should be evaluated by a healthcare provider and treated with an antibiotic for at least 24 hours before the child returns to school.

**6. Pink-Eye or Conjunctivitis** Symptoms of conjunctivitis include redness, discharge from eye, matted eyelashes, and burning or itching eyes and should be evaluated by a healthcare provider. The individual must have the symptoms resolved or be treated with a topical antibiotic for at least 24 hours before returning to school.

**7. Open wounds or sores** Wounds that are open or draining should be kept covered with a dressing.

#### **8. Vomiting**

Nausea with emesis. Must be free of vomiting for 48 hours prior to returning to school or 72 hours if NoroVirus is suspected.

#### **9. Strep throat or other bacterial infection**

Should be treated with an antibiotic for at least 24 hours and be fever-free for at least 24 hours.

**10. Temperature over 100.4** Must be febrile for 48 hours without the use of medicine that reduces fevers before returning to school.

#### **11. Skin Rash**

Presence of any skin rash that might be due to an infection should be evaluated by a healthcare provider or resolved before returning to school.

**12. Head Lice** Students suspected to have head lice should stay home from school until treatment is administered. Continue monitoring after treatment to determine severity and treatment plan.

It would be greatly appreciated if children with these problems could bring a note from their healthcare provider when they return to school. Thank you for helping us care for and teach your children by providing for their medical needs.. Please contact your school with any questions.

Sincerely,

*Walden Administration*

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