



ALEPH PRESCHOOL ILLNESS POLICY REVIEW

Dear Parents,

Your child's health is important to us and, with cold and flu season upon us, we would like to take this opportunity to review our Health Policies with you. It is also a good time to review with your entire family good hand washing practices. We hope this will help all of us to prevent the spread of contagious illness at the Aleph Preschool and keep our community healthy.

The Department of Human Services requires that we exclude a child with an illness or condition that the Commissioner of Health determines to be contagious, and a licensed physician determines has not had sufficient treatment to reduce the health risk to others. We will follow the exclusion guidelines listed below which are taken from INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN CHILD CARE SETTINGS; prepared by Hennepin County Community Health Department, Epidemiology Program.

Your child will be excluded from group care if they have any of the following conditions:

- **Chicken Pox** ~ until lesions are completely crusted over.
- **COVID-19** ~ see protocol on next page.
- **Diarrhea (Infectious)** ~ until diarrhea has stopped, meaning 24 hours without diarrhea and solid BM. For some infections, the person treated must also be treated with antibiotics before returning to childcare.
- **Diarrhea (Uncontrolled)** ~ two or more abnormally loose stools since admission that day or two loose stools that cannot be contained within a diaper. If we already know that we have a diarrhea problem at school, such as rotavirus, we will send children home with one very loose stool. Child must be excluded until uncontrolled diarrhea stops, or until a medical exam indicates that it is not a communicable disease.
- **Fever** ~ temperature measured tympanic membrane (in the ear) of 100°F (37.8°C) or higher or axillary position (under the arm) of 99°F (37.2°C) or higher. Children may return to school after being fever free without the use of fever reducing medication for 24 hours.
- **Impetigo** ~ until child has been treated with antibiotics for at least a full 24 hours and sores are drying or improving.
- **Lice (Head)**** ~ until after the first treatment and **no nits** are seen.
- **Rash (With or Without Fever)** ~ until a medical exam indicates these symptoms are not that of a communicable disease (i.e., chickenpox, fifth disease, hand, foot and mouth, measles, roseola (with fever), rubella, shingles, strep throat).
- **Respiratory Infections (Viral)** ~ until child is without fever for 24 hours and is well enough to fully participate in normal activities. No exclusion for other mild respiratory infections without fever if child can fully participate in normal activities.
- **Ringworm or Scabies** ~ until 24 hours after treatment has started.
- **Signs/Symptoms of Possible Severe Illness** ~ unusually tired, uncontrolled coughing, irritability, persistent crying, difficulty breathing, or wheezing should be evaluated by the child's health care provider to rule out severe illness.

- **Streptococcal Sore Throat** ~ until at least a full 24 hours after treatment begins and child is without fever for 24 hours.
- **Vomiting** ~ children will be sent home after they vomit once, and they may return to school 24 hours after the last incident.
- **Any child who is unable to participate in childcare program activities with reasonable comfort or who requires more care than the staff can provide, thereby compromising the health and safety of the other children.**

COVID-19 Protocols:

- Infected with COVID-19 ~ Isolate at home for 5 days. May return to school on day 6 (must have improved symptoms and be fever free) with a negative at home antigen COVID-19 test **or** masking days 6 through 10.
 - For those who choose to test instead of masking, will need to repeat testing on day 8.
 - For children under 2 years old who are unable to mask, will return to school on day 6 with a negative at home antigen COVID-19 test and repeat testing on day 8.
- Exposure (classroom or household) ~ may continue attending school without masking or quarantining, will be required to take an at home antigen COVID-19 test on day 5 after exposure and report results to the Aleph Preschool administrative office.
- Aleph Preschool will notify families of exposure to allow them the opportunity to make personal choices about measures they choose for their child(ren).

We recommend you keep your child home if:

- Child has a cold that is fewer than 3 days old.
- Child has a heavy nasal discharge not related to an allergy.
- Child has a constant cough not related to an allergy.
- Child is fussy, cranky, and generally not them self. Child may be coming down with something.
- Child is extremely tired or lethargic. Rest at such times may prevent the development of a more serious illness.
- Child has symptoms of a possible communicable disease, i.e., reddened, or glazed eyes or discharge from eyes, sore throat, headache, abdominal pain, or fever.

Your child may return to school if:

- Child is fever free for an entire 24-hour period without fever reducing medications.
- Child's cold is almost over with minor nasal drip.
- Child has been exposed to a communicable disease and Aleph Preschool has been notified.

If a child becomes ill during the day, they will be kept isolated from the other children. A staff member will remain with the child and make them as comfortable as possible. A parent or other authorized individual will be notified and asked to pick up the child within 30 minutes of the call.

****Head Lice:**

Please see head lice policy: <http://bethelalephpreschool.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Head-Lice-Policy.pdf>

Parents are required by state law and school policies to notify the center within 24 hours or after a weekend or holiday if their child contracts a communicable illness. Communicable illnesses will be reported to all parents the same day the information is received. All families in the affected classroom, and classrooms that regularly combine with the affected classroom, will be notified by email when a communicable illness is present. We will never share the identity of a child with a communicable illness.

We hope this information will help you make an informed decision on your child's behalf while being respectful of the health and safety of our whole community.