

Illness and Exclusion Policy

Exclusion from preschool is sometimes necessary either to reduce the transmission of illness or because the needs of a child are not able to be adequately met. Reasons for MudPie University to exclude children include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Illness that prevents the child from participating comfortably in program activities, such as going outdoors.
- Illness that results in a greater need for care than can be provided without compromising the health and safety of other children.
- Illness that poses a risk of spread of harmful disease to others.
- Severely ill appearance.
- Fever of 100.4 degrees or above (non contact thermometer) .
- Diarrhea; watery stools or decreased form of stool not associated with change of diet; child unable to reach the toilet; or stool frequency that exceeds 2 or more stools above normal for that child.
- Cases of bloody diarrhea and diarrhea caused by Shigella, salmonella, Shiga toxin producing E coli, Cryptosporidium or G intestinalis must be cleared for readmission by a health care professional.
- Blood or mucus in the stools not explained by dietary change, medication, or hard stools.
- Vomiting in the previous 24 hours (unless the vomiting is determined to be caused by a non-communicable condition and the child is not in danger of dehydration).
- Mouth sores with drooling (unless the child's medical provider or local health department authority states that the child is noninfectious).
- Abdominal pain associated with fever, dehydration, or other signs of illness.
- Rash with fever or behavioral changes (unless a physician has determined it is not a communicable disease).
- Skin sores weeping fluid and on an exposed area that cannot be covered.

- Conjunctivitis (defined as pink or red conjunctiva with white or yellow eye discharge) until on antibiotics for 24 hours.
- Impetigo until 24 hours after treatment has been started.
- Strep throat (or other streptococcal infection) until 24 hours after treatment has been started.
- Head lice or nits until after first treatment.
- Rubella, until 7 days after the rash appears.
- Scabies until 24 hours after treatment has been started.
- Chickenpox, until all lesions have dried or crusted (usually 6 days after onset of rash).
- Pertussis (whooping cough) until 5 days of antibiotics.
- Mumps, until 5 days after onset of parotid gland swelling.
- Measles, until 4 days after onset of rash.
- Hepatitis A Virus, until 1 week after onset of illness or jaundice or as directed by the health department (if child's symptoms are mild).
- Tuberculosis, until the child's medical provider or local health department states the child is on an appropriate treatment and can return.
- Any child determined by the local health department to be contributing to the transmission of illness.

For your child's comfort, and to reduce the risk of contagion, we ask that children be picked up immediately upon notification. Until then, your child will be kept comfortable and will continue to be observed for symptoms. Children need to remain home for 24 hours without symptoms before returning to the program, unless MPU receives a note from the child's medical provider stating that the child is not contagious and may return to school. In the case of a (suspected) contagious disease, rash, or continuing symptoms, a note from the child's medical provider may be required before the child can return. Children who have been excluded may return when:

- They are free of fever, vomiting, and diarrhea for a full 24 hours.

- Re-admission after diarrhea can occur when children do not have toileting accidents.
- They have been treated with an antibiotic for a full 24 hours.
- They are able to participate comfortably in all usual program activities, including outdoor time.
- They are free of open, oozing skin conditions and drooling, the child's medical provider signs a note stating that the child's condition is not contagious, and the involved areas can be covered by a bandage without seepage or drainage through the bandage.

If a child is excluded because of a reportable communicable disease, a note from the child's medical provider stating that the child is no longer contagious and may return is required. The final decision on whether to exclude a child from the program due to illness will be made by MudPie University Preschool. Notes allowing for a child's return to school after exclusion due to illness must originate from the child's medical provider. A note written and signed by the child's parent/guardian who is also a physician is not acceptable.

Policy of Notification

When information is received by MPU that a child is afflicted with a serious communicable disease, parents of other children attending school will be notified within 24 hours that their child has been exposed to a communicable disease. MPU will promptly report any known or suspected case or carrier of communicable disease to the local licensing office and the local health authorities and shall comply with the IDPH's rules for the control of communicable diseases.