

Updated Health & Wellness Policy

Please note this is an excerpt, the full policy can be read on our [website](#).



Illness at school

Staff members are knowledgeable about the signs and symptoms of childhood illnesses, and they are responsible for the initial observation of each child upon arrival and continued observation throughout the day. If an illness prevents the child from participating comfortably in activities or creates a greater need for care than the staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children, or if a child's condition is suspected to be contagious and requires exclusion as identified by public health authorities, then the child is made comfortable in the preschool office, where new individuals will not be exposed, on a cot where she or he is supervised by a familiar caregiver.

We will immediately attempt to notify the parent or legal guardian when a child has any sign or symptom that requires exclusion from the program. If the parent or legal guardian cannot be reached within 15 minutes then the authorized emergency contacts will be notified to pick up the child.

Some of the symptoms that would indicate to us that a child was contagious or did not feel well enough to stay in school would be: a fever of 100.3 or greater, diarrhea, severe and persistent cough, vomiting, unexplained rash, or a cold that seems to be keeping the child from benefiting from school. Parents are required to both keep children home when they have these symptoms and consult with their healthcare provider. If the healthcare provider does not suspect COVID-19, then an alternative diagnosis must be documented and the child must be cleared in writing before he or she can return to Earthplace.

Missing school

Please email your child's teacher, the [Director of Early Childhood Education](#) and the [Operations Manager](#) when your child will miss school letting us know the reason for your child's absence. We are then able to share information about possible exposure while always maintaining confidentiality.

Exposure to a contagious disease

When your child has been exposed to a contagious disease at school we will send an email to let you know the name of the disease and its signs and symptoms, mode of transmission, period of communicability, and control measures that are being implemented at school and that families should implement at home. We will also announce this information at dismissal time.

Health Assessment Record

Connecticut State Law requires that children who attend our school must have had a physical examination by their healthcare provider within one year. The results of the exam must be on the state approved Health Assessment Record Form. As per state licensing regulations, if a current, completed medical form is not in our files on the first day of school; your child CANNOT be permitted to start school. Children must be current for routine screening tests and immunizations according to the schedule listed on the State of Connecticut Early Childhood Health Assessment Record.

Flu shot

The Connecticut State Department of Health requires that all children enrolled in childcare programs have a flu shot. The shot needs to be given before December in the school year the child is attending. A record of the shot must be submitted to us in order to remain in compliance with the state licensing regulations.

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COVID-19 & Symptoms of illness

- **At school:** If your child becomes sick or exhibits any symptoms of COVID-19 including fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, the new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea we will notify the child's parent or another authorized adult.
 - **The child must be picked up within 30 minutes**
 - **The child must be evaluated by their healthcare provider**
 - **If the healthcare provider does not suspect COVID-19, then an alternative diagnosis must be documented**
 - **If and when an alternative diagnosis to COVID-19 is provided please follow the applicable exclusion policy, as stated on the following page.**
 - **The child must be cleared in writing before returning to Earthplace**
 - The other children in the classroom will be taken outdoors, if weather permits, while the classroom is cleaned and sanitized
 - Earthplace will contact the Westport/Weston Health District, and we will follow their instructions
 - If there is a positive case of COVID-19, or other communicable disease, all parents in the program will be notified and will receive further instructions
 - Confidentiality will be maintained

- **At home:** If a child becomes sick or exhibits any symptoms of COVID-19 including fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, the new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea:
 - **Earthplace Preschool must be notified immediately via email**
 - **The child will have to be seen by their healthcare provider**
 - **If the healthcare provider does not suspect COVID-19, then an alternative diagnosis must be documented**
 - **If and when an alternative diagnosis to COVID-19 is provided please follow the applicable exclusion policy, as stated on the following page.**
 - **The child must be cleared in writing before returning to Earthplace.**
 - If there is a positive case of COVID-19, or other communicable disease, all parents in the program will be notified and will receive further instructions
 - Confidentiality will be maintained

- **Earthplace staff:** If an Earthplace staff member becomes sick, they will remain at home for the remainder of the week or longer according to their healthcare provider's instructions. Staff members must also be cleared by their healthcare provider and provide a note before they can return to Earthplace. If there is a positive case of COVID-19 or other communicable disease all parents in the program will be notified and will receive further instructions. Confidentiality will be maintained.

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Exclusion & Returning to school

- **Chicken Pox (Varicella):** Until all sores have dried and crusted (usually six days)
- **Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis)*:** After three treatments with medication prescribed by a physician for this occurrence and completely asymptomatic for 24 hours. You must provide a note from the health care provider to certify that the child is not infectious.
- **COVID-19*:** 14 days
- **Diarrhea*:** Until 24 hours have passed with no diarrhea and cleared by a healthcare provider.
- **Diphtheria*:** Until two negative cultures collected 24 hours after completion of medication.
- **Difficult or rapid breathing*:** Until cleared by a healthcare provider
- **Fever 100.3 F*:** Until fever-free without fever-reducing medication for 72 hours and cleared by a healthcare provider.
- **Fungus or ringworm*:** Excluded at the end of the school day. May return when certified by a health care provider that the patient is under adequate treatment and no longer infectious.
- **Hepatitis A*:** Until one week after onset of illness, jaundice, or as directed by the health care dept. when passive immunoprophylaxis has been administered to appropriate children and staff.
- **Impetigo*:** Until 24 hours after treatment began.
- **Influenza*:** Until clinically well and cleared by a health care provider.
- **Measles:** Four days after the rash appears and the child is well.
- **Meningitis* (all forms):** Until certified by a physician as cured and not infectious.
- **Mumps:** Until nine days after onset of parotid gland swelling.
- **Pediculosis (Head Lice)*:** From the end of the day until after first treatment.
- **Pertussis (Whooping Cough):** After five days of appropriate antibiotic therapy.
- **Poison Ivy, Oak, Sumac:** No exclusion.
- **Poliomyelitis*:** Ten days from the onset and certified as not infectious by a physician.
- **Rash*:** Until diagnosed by a physician plus certification that the patient is under adequate treatment or is not infectious.
- **Rubella (German Measles):** Until six days after onset of rash.
- **Scabies*:** Until certified by healthcare provider that adequate treatment has been given to prevent transmission.
- **Strep Throat or other strep infections:** Until 24 hours after initial antibiotic therapy and cessation of fever without fever suppressant medications for 24 hours.
- **Tuberculosis (active)*:** Until the healthcare provider states the child is on appropriate therapy and can attend childcare.

* These illnesses require a doctor's note in order for your child to come back to school.