

SERENDIPITY CENTER, INC. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SUBJECT: Communicable Disease in Students

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 2011, Revised February 2023 and June 2023

ATTACHMENTS:

Policy:

Parents of a student with a communicable or contagious disease are asked to telephone Serendipity's school nurse or CMA so that other students who have been exposed to the disease can be alerted.

A student diagnosed with certain school restrictable diseases is not allowed to come to school while the disease is contagious. This restriction is removed after the school receives a written statement from the local health officer or a licensed physician (with the concurrence of the local health officer) that the disease is no longer communicable to others in the school setting. The following diseases require such a statement for the student to return to school:

- Diphtheria
- Hepatitis A or E
- Hepatitis B (in students with higher risk of transmission - unable to control biting and/or spitting)
- Measles
- Mumps
- Meningitis
- Plague
- Rubella
- Diarrheal diseases: Salmonella enterica (Typhi serotype), Shiga-toxigenic E. coli (STEC), Shigellosis
- Tuberculosis (not restricted in latent/chronic phase)
- Typhoid fever
- Whooping cough (pertussis)

A student *exposed* with the following diseases is not allowed to return to school until cleared by a licensed physician: Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B.

For the following diseases, the restriction to attend school may be removed by a school nurse or by parent confirmation of treatment.

- COVID-19 - exclude until fever free for 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medications and other their symptoms are improving. Masks are highly commended through day 10 from symptom onset or positive test results which ever came first.
- Chicken pox - exclude for at least seven days after onset of symptoms, until scabs are dry
- Fifth disease - exclude until rash resolves or until cleared by a healthcare provider.

- Hand, foot, mouth - exclude until rash resolves or until cleared by a healthcare provider.
- Meningococcal disease (meningitis) - after treatment and clearance by a healthcare provider.
- Pink eye (conjunctivitis) - exclude until eyes are clear for 24 hours after starting antibiotics. The restriction may be removed after the parent communicates with the school that a recognized treatment has been initiated.
- Streptococcal infections (Scarlet Fever, streptococcal sore throat) - exclude until antibiotic treatment has been given for at least 24 hours. The restriction may be removed after the parent communicates with the school that a recognized treatment has been initiated.
- MRSA - exclude if area draining and not able to be contained/covered
- Impetigo (staphylococcal infections) - exclude until antibiotic treatment has been given for at least 24 hours. The restriction may be removed after the parent communicates with the school that a recognized treatment has been initiated.
- Scabies - exclude until effectively treated. The restriction may be removed after the parent communicates with the school that a recognized treatment has been initiated.
- Lice - exclude until effectively treated. The restriction may be removed after the parent communicates with the school that a recognized treatment has been initiated.
- Ringworm - exclude if exposed part of the body is involved and cannot be covered.
- Shingles - exclude if lesions cannot be covered, or until lesions scab over. May attend with healthcare provider clearance or after lesions have dried/scabbed.
- Pinworms - exclude in students that are unable to control bowel function.

Procedure:

If a child shows any of the following symptoms due to illness, the student should be sent home or kept home from school until symptoms are improved for at least 24 hours:

- Fever: if over 100.4 °F. May return when fever-free without use of fever-reducing medications (ibuprofen, acetaminophen, etc.)
- Cough: if interfering with activities or if the student will consistently not cover his/her mouth.
- Shortness of breath/Difficulty breathing
- Stiff neck or Headache with Fever: call parent to take child to a healthcare provider for evaluation.
- Diarrhea: if a student has 3 episodes of liquid stool accompanied by abdominal pain or nausea.
- Vomiting: if a student vomits more than once and it does not appear to be self-induced or related to motion sickness.
- Sore throat: if interfering with swallowing, if fever present, or if there is a sandpapery red rash covering the body.
- Ear pain: if drainage other than cerumen (ear wax)-call parent to take child to a healthcare provider for evaluation.

- Eyes: if inflamed, excessive tearing, draining, discharge or yellow in color.
- Rash: if weepy/draining, new or growing, unexplained cause or cannot be covered
- Behavioral changes or Confusion/altered mental status- call parent to take child to a healthcare provider for evaluation

Students who complain of illness, and do not appear to meet the above criteria, will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Often, this will involve allowing the student to call home and inform the parent/guardians of physical complaints. Unless a pattern of excessive absences results, parents/guardians may decide on the response to complaints.

Parents with questions should contact the school nurse or CMA.