WILDFLOWER
Nature School

SCHOOL ILLNESS POLICY

Revised August 2025

Our goal is to provide a healthy environment for all children. To achieve this goal, cooperation is needed by teachers, administration, and parents.

OVERVIEW

Children who are ill are not admitted to the center. When children develop an illness during the day, the center may call you and ask that your child be picked up. If you receive a phone call that your child is ill, the child must be picked up as soon as possible. After 45 minutes, emergency contacts will be notified and asked to pick up the child.

Conditions which mandate exclusion are: communicable, infectious diseases such as chicken pox or measles, strep throat, R.S.V., etc. or any conditions which your doctor or our health consultant have identified as a health threat to the group.

There are four main reasons to keep children and adults at home:

1. The child or staff member could infect others with a contagious illness, either because of symptoms, a diagnosis, or recent exposure to a contagious illness.
2. The child or staff member does not feel well enough to take part in usual activities. For example, a child is overly tired, fussy, or will not stop crying.
3. A child needs more care than teachers and staff can give while still caring for the other children. WNS has a threshold of 2 hours a child is inconsolable, we may send them home as they require more attention than group care can provide.
4. The child or staff member has symptoms or an illness on How Sick is Too Sick, and staying home is required.

Symptoms, which may alone or in combination, exclude a child from attending or remaining in child care are:

- Vomiting/diarrhea
- Severe colds
- Fever of 100.4 degrees or more (100 degrees if 4 months or less)

- Frequent (two or more times) diarrhea in 24 hours
- Discharge from the eyes
- Unexplained rash
- Drowsiness and listlessness

Children may return when these conditions are met:

- Infectious disease – doctors permission to resume child care
- Fevers – normal temperature for 24 hours without the aid of medication
- Diarrhea – no diarrhea for 24 hours
- Vomiting- no vomiting for 24 hours
- Conjunctivitis – no eye discharge for 24 hours
- Infectious rash – doctors permission and under medication if appropriate
- If doctor recommends antibiotics, child must be taking them for 24 hours before returning to center

****The Director and/or Assistant Director may send a child home at their discretion based on Department of Public Health Guidelines above. If the child is needing one on one care for an extended period of time, due to illness or behavior, they should not be in group care.***

Sibling Illness Policy

Any child(ren) whose sibling is sick and home from school must also remain home from school during the duration of the illness period until both are symptom free and meet the above conditions for returning.

Excluding Children

Staff are responsible for observing children at drop off and throughout the day for signs of illness. If a child arrives at the facility or school with signs of illness that require exclusion they may not be accepted. If a child develops symptoms of illness that require exclusion during the time of care, the parent/guardian will be contacted to pick up the child as soon as possible. The child will be provided with a place to rest which is separate from the other children until the parent/guardian arrives. The child may return to child care or school based on the requirements in How Sick is Too Sick, the Infectious Disease Guide, or as directed by their health care provider or public health professional.

Information will be recorded on an illness log when children are sent home due to symptoms of illness that require exclusion. All items used to care for the child (cot, bedding etc.) will be cleaned and sanitized or cleaned and disinfected if

contaminated by body fluids after the child leaves the child care or school. The date and time when the child returns to the child care facility or school will be recorded on the illness log.

Outbreaks

When a school or child care facility has a child or staff member with an illness that is required to be reported to the health department, the health department will be contacted immediately. Outbreaks of illness must also be reported to the health department when there is a larger number than normal of children or staff ill with the same symptoms. For example, above normal seasonal absenteeism for a school or a child care facility would be concerning and the health department will be contacted. The health department will also be contacted when there are two or more people that do not live together who are ill with symptoms including vomiting, diarrhea, or Jaundice.

ADMINISTERING MEDICATION

Children who are on medication may take it or be administered the medication while at the center only with a written Medication Administration Permission Form signed by a physician on file. Only authorized medications will be given. The staff will make sure that the child gets any doses, which are needed while the child is in the center. The parent and prescribing physician must fill out a medication form listing the medicine, the amount and the time of dosage. The staff member who gives the medication will record the dosage and sign the form. Completed forms will be put in the child's file. The above conditions must be met before the center can administer medication. Medication must be in the original prescription container.

Prescription Medicine

The child's name must be on the bottle with a current date. No medicine may be administered if not in the prescription container. We ask that parents give medicines directly to staff. DO NOT put medications or vitamins in lunch boxes. Staff will not be allowed to administer prescription medicine without a physician's note.

Non-Prescription Medicine

Must have a physician's note (i.e. Tylenol, Cough syrup), which addresses the time frame and dosage amounts. For Non-Prescription Topical Medicine, including diaper cream, the parent must give a written note with their signature, which will be valid for one year (i.e. sunscreen, Desitin, Vaseline).

Storing of Medicine

Medicine will be stored in the kitchen refrigerator out of reach of children. Leftover and expired medicine will be returned to the parent.

IMMUNIZATIONS

State regulations require that we maintain a record of each child's successful immunizations. At the time of admission, the parent must provide documentation of the child's immunization and it must prove to be appropriate for that age. Additionally, parents are responsible for bringing documentation of each immunization the child receives while enrolled at the center. Wildflower requires proof of immunizations on CDPHE's Certificate of Immunization Form.

Immunization Exemptions

A medical exemption for those children who cannot be vaccinated and a nonmedical exemption for those who choose not to vaccinate remains an option for Colorado families. For our school to consider your exemption, the following must be completed respectively:

- Parents and caregivers claiming a medical exemption from vaccination for their child must have a completed Certificate of Medical Exemption with the signature of a healthcare provider. Medical exemptions only need to be submitted once, unless the student's information or school changes.
- If a parent or caregiver chooses not to have their child vaccinated, they may claim a nonmedical exemption in one of two ways:
  - Submit the official Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption with the signature of an immunizing provider (such as a medical doctor, advanced practice nurse, pharmacist, etc.) OR
  - Submit the official Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption received upon completion of CDPHE's Online Immunization Education Module (see bottom of page).
  - Note: Nonmedical exemptions for preschool or child care must be submitted at 2, 4, 6, 12, and 18 months of age. These exemptions expire when the next vaccines are due or when a child enrolls in Kindergarten. Nonmedical exemptions for school-aged children must be submitted annually and expire on June 30th of each year.

To protect unvaccinated children, students with an exemption from one or more required vaccines may be kept out of a school or child care during a disease outbreak.

INFECTION CONTROL

Hygiene Staff and children will wash their hands with liquid soap, running water, and friction. Staff and toddler-aged and older children will wash their hands at the following times or as needed:

1. Upon arrival for the day and after breaks;
2. When caregivers move from caring for one group/classroom of children to another;
3. Before and after:
    a. Preparing food or beverages;
    b. Eating, handling food, or feeding a child;
    c. Giving medication, applying a medical ointment or cream or administering first aid; and,
    d. Setup or use of a sensory table.
4. After:
    a. Using the toilet or assisting a child with toileting;
    b. Diapering each child;
    c. Handling body fluids;
    d. Handling animals or cleaning up animal waste;
    e. Coming in from outdoors;
    f. Cleaning or handling garbage; and,
    g. At any other time hands become soiled.
5. Infants shall have their hands washed with:
    a. Soap and running water; or,
    b. A clean cloth that contains soap and is laundered after each use; or,
    c. The use of soap and warm water solution dispensed from a clean spray bottle, followed by a rinse before drying with a clean cloth or disposable towel:
    d. Before and after meals and snacks;
    e. After:
        i. Having their diaper changed;
        ii. Coming in from outdoors; and,
        iii. Whenever their hands become soiled.

MEETING SPECIFIC HEALTH CARE NEEDS

A parent is responsible for identifying allergies. Children with allergies or special diets will have their specific allergies and/or diet restrictions posted in the classroom so staff will always be aware of and reminded of such allergies. The staff will ensure that the child will not come into contact with or ingest an allergen.

NOTIFICATION OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

When the center becomes aware of any communicable disease, parents will be notified via Email and text via ELV contact information.

STAFF EXCLUSIONS

The person in charge of staff is responsible for observing the staff for signs of illness throughout the day. Staff members have the responsibility of reporting, to the person in charge, any signs of infection or illness that may pose a hazard to the health of children and other staff. If a staff member is not well enough to work they may return based on the requirements in How Sick is Too Sick, the Infectious Disease Guide, or as directed by their health care provider or public health professional.

Food Handling Staff Exclusion Requirements

Special attention will be given to staff members that handle food because many illnesses can be spread through food from an infected person. Food handling activities include preparation of any food (i.e. washing, cutting, cooking, and portioning), the mixing and feeding of bottles, and feeding infants and toddler's solid foods. Food handling staff must notify the person in charge:

1. If they exhibit any of the following symptoms:
    a. Vomiting;
    b. Diarrhea;
    c. Jaundice;
    d. Sore throat with fever; or
    e. Any open or draining wound that is not covered with a waterproof bandage and is:
        i. On the hands or wrists*;
        ii. On any exposed portions of the arms; or
        iii. On other parts of the body.

*In addition to water proof bandages covering wounds on hands and wrists, single service gloves must be worn at all times when handling food.

2. Has an illness diagnosed by a health care provider due to:
    a. Norovirus
    b. Hepatitis A virus
    c. Shigella
    d. Shiga Toxin Producing Escherichia Coli (e-coli)
    e. Typhoid fever (caused by Salmonella Typhi) or
    f. Salmonella

3. Has been exposed to, or is the suspected source of, a confirmed disease outbreak or living in the same household as someone who works or attends a setting where there is a confirmed outbreak.

Staff will be allowed to return to work based on requirements in How Sick is Too Sick, the Infectious Disease Guide, as directed by the health department, or as directed by a health care provider, or public health professional.

RESOURCES

Early Childhood Options Mental Health Consultant

Mental health is extremely important when working with children. We recommend reaching out to Building Hope as a local mental health resource.

The Early Childhood Mental Health Support Line is a no-cost, confidential resource for anyone who cares for children under six. The support line can help you to better understand and support the wellbeing of the young children in your care, including children who may currently be struggling.

Summit County's Senior Environmental Health Specialist Maya Kulick is always available for all Public Health and facility cleaning procedures questions. You can reach her at (970) 668-4072 or maya.kulick@summitcountyco.gov.

Nurse Consultant Kathryn Van Inderstine health@summitcountyco.gov