



College Park Nursery School

A parent-run cooperative

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GENERAL HEALTH POLICY

College Park Nursery School (CPNS) is committed to protecting the health of our children, families, staff, and community to the best of our ability. The following policy outlines the practices and strategies that CPNS will use to protect the health of our children, staff, and families, as well as guidance for what is expected of families should their child become ill while at school or at home.

As a licensed child care center in Prince George's County, guidelines are provided to us for best practices in child care settings by the Prince George's County Health Department (PGCHD) and Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).

Standardized guidelines can change and adjust depending on many factors. If/When this happens, CPNS will be notified by the Maryland State Department of Education Office of Child Care (MSDE OCC) and will communicate this information to families in a timely manner.

Mitigating the Risk of Communicable Disease - A Layered Approach

Vaccinations

All CPNS staff and classroom co-ops are strongly encouraged to be up to date on all vaccinations. This means that one has received all recommended vaccines, including any boosters. Please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/adult.html> to learn more about being fully vaccinated.

Staying Home When Sick

Staff, co-ops and children who have symptoms of any communicable disease (see MD Communicable Disease Summary document) are advised to stay home, follow the exclusion guidance in this health policy, and seek advice from their physician. Depending on the illness, the length of exclusion may vary, and/or a physician's note may be required before returning to school. In addition, those returning to school after a bout of illness must be able to participate comfortably in all usual program activities, including outdoor time. If a staff member or child tests positive or is diagnosed with a communicable illness, the school must be notified immediately by contacting Robin Webster or Anna Yong so they can advise on next steps.

Ventilation

There are HEPA air purifiers in each classroom, the children's bathroom, and the office that are appropriate for the size of the space. The filters are changed according to recommended practices. When the children are indoors, the windows and classroom doors are kept open as much as possible. The use of CO2 monitors are used as needed (e.g., in times of higher respiratory viral spread) to inform teachers about classroom ventilation levels while students are indoors.

Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

Our program reinforces regular health and safety practices with children and staff and continues to comply with licensing regulations and CDC hand washing guidelines. Please refer to the hand hygiene handout for more information.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Staff engage in cleaning and disinfecting practices in accordance with CDC recommendations to reduce the spread of all communicable diseases. A Cleaning Frequency Table is displayed in each classroom, the children's bathroom, and the front office.

Masking

All members of our school community are welcome to use a face mask voluntarily at any time as an additional preventative measure to lower the risk of respiratory virus transmission. [Per the recommendation of the CDC](#), we especially encourage the use of face masks in the 5-day period after a respiratory virus infection, or if a staff, child, or co-oper has any active respiratory symptoms during times of higher respiratory viral spread. When one does choose to mask, we encourage mask-wearers to use the most protective one they can comfortably wear for extended periods of time that fits well on their face (completely covering the nose and mouth).

What to do When Your Child is Ill

We understand that it is difficult for a parent to leave or miss work when a child is ill, therefore we suggest alternate arrangements be made when children must remain at home or be picked up early due to illness.

If your child has any of the following conditions or symptoms, we will contact you to pick up your child from school within **30 minutes** of being called to prevent contagion of other children and staff, and most importantly to provide comfort to your child.

- Fever (temperature at or above 100.4°F temporally)
- Rash (reddening of skin, suspicious of a contagious¹ childhood illness)
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea (loose or watery stool that is not able to be contained by a diaper or be controlled/contained by usual toileting practices)
- Conjunctivitis ("pink eye"; redness in the whites of eye, itching/burning; green or white) discharge from eyes; thick yellow discharge that crusts over the eyelashes, especially after sleep
- Any condition preventing the child from participating comfortably in the usual program activities
- Scabies, head lice, bed bugs or other infestations
- Any contagious illness (illness that is considered reportable² to the Maryland Department of Health)

¹ Please refer to the "MD Communicable Diseases Summary" provided in your Orientation Packet to see what qualifies as "contagious."

² Please refer to the "MD Communicable Diseases Summary" provided in your Orientation Packet to see what qualifies as a "reportable illness."

After a child has been excluded for any of the above reasons, in order to return to the program, the following conditions must be met:

- A child must be free from fever, vomiting, and/or diarrhea for a full 24 hours³, without use of medication, before returning to school.
- Any child prescribed an antibiotic for a current bacterial infection must take the prescription for a full 24-hour course before returning.
- A child must be able to participate comfortably in all usual program activities, including outdoor time.
- A child excluded because of lice, scabies or other infestation may return 24 hours after treatment begins.

Note: If a child is excluded because of a communicable illness, CPNS might be required to notify the local health department (LHD). A doctor's note stating that the child is no longer contagious may also be required. In the circumstance where the child's parent is also a doctor, the note must be from a physician who is not the child's parent. The final decision whether to exclude a child from the program is made by the school.

Key Takeaways

1. CPNS takes a layered approach to mitigate the risk of communicable disease. It is CPNS' responsibility to follow through with the layered approach as outlined above.
2. If your child has a diagnosed communicable disease, it is your responsibility to inform CPNS by contacting your teacher, Robin Webster, or Anna Yong.
3. It is CPNS' responsibility to inform you of exclusion, masking, and other requirements according to state health department and CDC guidelines.
4. It is your responsibility to follow the state and CDC guidance provided by CPNS for exclusion, masking, and other requirements. If instead, you wish to follow guidance provided by a licensed medical provider, a signed doctor's note must be submitted to CPNS.
5. If your child falls ill while at school, it is your responsibility to arrange for your child to be picked up within 30 minutes of receiving notification from CPNS.

³ There are some exceptions to this depending on the child's illness. See the "MD Communicable Diseases Summary" for guidance.