



## Illness Operating Plan for 2024-25 School Year

Dear Smart Start ELC Families,

As we embark on a new school year, our hope is that illness will not impact how we are able to operate. However, recent years have demonstrated the importance of having a plan in case things change. If you have questions or concerns regarding our current operating plan, please contact Longview Office Staff. Thank you for your role in helping us keep our students, families, and staff as safe as possible. We value your partnership with this effort.

- If a student **is experiencing/has experienced in the past 24 hours a fever of 100°F or higher, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, vomiting, and/or diarrhea**, please do not bring your child to school, as the student must be excluded from school for any of these conditions.
- The daily health screening outlined below will be used for all students. A temperature may be taken if he/she shows any signs of illness. **The drop-off person verifies that the student's attendance is proof of a "no" answer to all the following questions.**
  - Has your student had any of the following symptoms in the past 24 hours?
    - A cough (new, changed, or worsening); is frequent, deep, hacking, painful for child, and/or producing thick/colored sputum
    - Runny nose that is dark yellow, green, and/or brown
    - Congestion/runny nose – not related to seasonal allergies **(a doctor's note is required to verify a student's allergy diagnosis and will be kept on file by Smart Start)**
    - A sore throat
    - Excessively hot or cold
    - New loss of taste or smell
    - Muscle or body aches
    - Nausea
    - Unusual fatigue
    - Has your student had any medication to treat an above symptom(s) before coming to school?
  - **The student may be excluded from school (either at drop-off or later in the class session) if the answer to any of the above questions is "yes."** If the student remains at school after drop-off, Smart Start staff will monitor the student for signs of illness and will call parent/authorized adult during class if necessary.

**OVER-CONTINUED**

➤ Additional sick policy information:

- A child with a 100 degree or higher temperature will need to stay home from school until he/she is free of high temperature for 24 hours.
- A child who has had vomiting and/or diarrhea will need to stay home from school until he/she has not experienced these symptoms for a period of 24 hours.
- If a child has an infection or a contagious illness requiring antibiotic treatment, he/she must be on antibiotics for 24 hours (or longer as determined by prescribing doctor) before returning to school.
- In cases of communicable disease, please contact Nikki Hembery immediately so that we can notify parents that their children have been exposed and so that we can disinfect our affected classroom(s). We will never disclose by name the ill child.
- Please be aware of unusual rashes your child develops, especially in conjunction with fever or other symptoms. If there is any weeping or discharge from the rash, we need to know that the child is not contagious and has been cleared by a doctor before returning to school.
- A child with headlice and/or nits will need to be kept home from school, please. While we realize that lice has not been shown to spread disease, it is something we want to keep out of our center and, subsequently, help keep out of our families' homes. A child who has had headlice and/or nits may return to school once his/her head and belongings have been treated and are free of lice/nits for a period of 24 hours.
- Children with minor colds can come to school at your discretion.
- You know your child best. If you are observing excessive coughing, fatigue, or other symptoms that indicate your child may be ill, please consider that information when making the decision if your child should attend school or not.

➤ If handwashing is not feasible, children will use hand sanitizer.

➤ Smart Start ELC may be required to close a classroom and/or schoolwide in the event of a confirmed onsite outbreak of illness.

➤ During a potential closure of 14 or fewer days, Smart Start will continue to provide instruction via Seesaw for all programs, and families will continue to be financially responsible for the tuition due during that period.

➤ Face coverings are optional for Smart Start staff and for students, per parent instruction. **However, Smart Start ELC reserves the right to have staff and/or students wear a face covering—for their safety and/or others'—if substantial contagious infection is suspected in the classroom.**

➤ Smart Start ELC will maintain an operating plan that abides by state and/or local restrictions/mandates. **Smart Start ELC reserves the right to change this operating plan and how school is conducted at any point.** Families will be notified if changes are necessary.

➤ Smart Start ELC will continue to do its best to maintain health and safety standards while providing a much-needed service to children and their families.