

# Big City Montessori School

## Illness/Sick Policy

BCMS is not equipped to provide care for children who are too sick to participate in regularly scheduled activities at school. Therefore, it is very important for you to make back up arrangements for substitute care in the event your child is/or becomes ill. The following criteria are outlined to assist you in deciding when not to bring your child to school because of illness.

### **Your child may not come to school if he/she:**

- Has or had a fever \*24 hours prior to attending the school;

(\*For example, if your child had last dose of medication at 12:00 pm on Wednesday and their final fever breaks that evening at 5:00 pm, they should not return to school until Friday morning. 24 hours would have been at 5:00 pm on Thursday afternoon.)

- Has vomited in the 24 hours preceding attending the school;
- Has diarrhea during the 24 hours preceding attendance at the school;
- Has skin sores which are open and draining (including such things as impetigo, etc.). Your child may return to school when the drainage ceases, the sores begin to heal, or your physician clears your child to return to school.
- Has ear/eye drainage such as pink eye (conjunctivitis). Your child may return to school after prescription medication has been administered for 24 hours;
- Has Streptococcal Group A throat infection. Your child may return to school after prescription medication has been administered for 24 hours;
- Has a contagious disease, such as Chicken Pox (until the child is cleared by a Doctor/no longer contagious/until the lesions are crusted over);
- Has lice, ringworm, or scabies that is untreated and contagious to others;
- Has undiagnosed rash or a rash attributable to contagious illness or condition;
- Has significant respiratory problems.
- In some cases, a note from the child's physician may be required.

When doubtful about your child's health condition, play it safe for the sake of your child, other children, and the staff at BCMS. Especially keep your child home for 48 hours in the case of a severe cold, upper respiratory infection, or if your child has an infectious disease.

Any child who becomes ill while at school will be quarantined in the school office, until a parent/authorized adult arrives to pick up the child. The Administrative Staff will notify you and ask you to pick up your child immediately if your child:

- Has a fever of 100F or higher;
- Vomits during the day;
- Is fussy, lethargic, or constantly crying for an unusual amount of time and for unexplained reasons;
- Has two diarrhea episodes in the same day;
- Has any contagious drainage or weeping sores, which includes suspicion of such things as chicken pox, impetigo, pink eye or ear drainage;
- Unknown rash, severe sore throat, severe cough, unexplained pain;
- Children who are too sick to participate in regularly scheduled activities at school and require more care than the program staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of the other children.

We strongly encourage you NOT to bring your child(ren) who are ill, even if they are symptom-free, due to use of over the counter medication (such as Tylenol, Cold & Cough Syrup, etc.). The medications typically only mask the symptoms rather than cure the illness, and we end up having to call you to pick up your child in any case.

When your child is sick, be sure to call in or email the office to let the Administrative Staff know that your child is out sick and what symptoms they may be having. We try to keep track of what illnesses are going around in our school, so we can keep everyone informed. Your help with this is greatly appreciated.

We will soon be adding a "common preschool illnesses" information page to our website for your reference.

Make sure to follow the policies we have listed above and any future updates – our goal is to keep everyone as healthy as possible. We appreciate everyone's help in stopping the spread of illnesses in our school!