

Health & Student Well-being

Sick Child: It is often difficult to know when your child is too ill to attend school. Please be mindful that most infections (including viral infections) are contagious to one degree or another. When making decisions regarding whether to send your child to school, please be respectful of your child's classmates and school staff by attempting to minimize the spread of infection. Consider the following to be general practices:

- **An underarm temperature of >100 degrees Fahrenheit, BEFORE fever-reducing medication is given. Your child must be free of fever for 24 hours WITHOUT medication before returning to school.**
- Vomiting or diarrhea within the past 24 hours. The child should be able to eat fairly well before returning to school.
- Undetermined rash of which the source is unknown.
- Difficulty breathing or is experiencing any type of respiratory distress.
- Head lice, ringworm, shingles, or scabies that has not been treated and is contagious to others.
- A sore or discharging ear or eye (including, but not limited to, pink eye).
- Bacterial infection such as streptococcal (strep throat) or impetigo that has not been treated and is contagious to others.
- Untreated chicken pox or shingles. In the case of chicken pox, all lesions must be scabbed over and dry before returning to school.
- Continual runny nose, sore throat, and/or severe cough, with or without fever, at the staff member's discretion.
- Any contagious disease or illness. For any illness requiring antibiotics, the child must have had a full 24 hours of antibiotic treatment before returning to school.

If a parent is in doubt about sending a child to school, please call the school first to discuss the situation. We are happy to assist you.

****Important:** Swan River Montessori Charter School staff will follow the same guidelines to determine if your child is sick while at school. Please note that the school does not employ a nurse to assess or care for your child during the school day.

If your child experiences any of the previous ailments, a staff member will contact a parent immediately. If no parent can be reached, emergency contacts will be used. It is the responsibility of the parent(s) to ensure the child is picked up promptly. The child will be isolated from the other students until he or she is picked up. Parents and/or emergency contacts **MUST** pick up an ill child within **ONE HOUR** of the initial phone call. It is the responsibility of the parent(s) to inform the school if a contagious illness is present within 24 hours of being sent home.

Staff will do their best to keep families informed about contagious illnesses reported in your child's classroom. The school will circulate a fact sheet about the illness so that you are aware of potential symptoms in your child.

If your child has a significant medical history that could result in physical or mental health concerns while at school (e.g. seizures, gastro-intestinal diseases, etc.), please be sure to have a direct conversation with your child's teacher and the Director to ensure they are fully aware of this/these issues. Never assume that this information is fully disclosed in previous student records. An action plan should be devised and placed in your child's file so that staff can respond in the most appropriate fashion should your child experience difficulties during the day.

Medication Policy: Medication may be stored for and administered to a child at school only if the medication is in its original container, the label is clearly intact, and a Medication/Treatment Authorization Form has been completed and signed. No staff member will administer medication of any kind if these procedures have not been followed. The form must be given directly to a staff member, preferably the child's teacher or administration, so any questions may be answered thoroughly at that time.

The staff of Swan River considers any sprays, creams, ointments, etc. to be medication (e.g. sun screen, bug spray, Benadryl/hydrocortisone). The proper form must be completed before these are applied to a child's skin. We strongly encourage that these items be applied prior to coming to school. These items are not allowed to be kept in your child's back pack, locker, lunch box, cubby, etc. They must be given to and stored by either the child's teacher or the main office.

Over-the-counter lotions are permitted and may be used with verbal/written parent permission at any time. The student is responsible for application and storage of any OTC lotions.

****Important:** ALL Swan River Montessori Charter School staff retain the right to refuse medication administration if they feel uncomfortable doing so for any reason.