



## HEALTH POLICY: COVID-19

During this exceptional year, the NYS & NYC Departments of Health have set up rigorous guidelines regarding when children (and staff) must be isolated and stay at home.

It is important that we all become familiar with symptoms of COVID-19. These symptoms may include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Loss of taste and/or smell
- Sore throat, congestion, or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If a child develops these symptoms while at school, they will have to be escorted to our isolation room by one of our staff. The staff will be wearing full PPE, which includes a face mask, a face shield, a gown, and gloves. The child stays in isolation while watched by their staff escort until a parent comes and takes the child home.

The child will be required to stay home and cannot return to school for at least 10 days, unless the child receives a COVID-19 resulting in NEGATIVE. If the child does have a negative test, but a fever persists, the child still must stay home until fever-free for 24 hours without the use of Tylenol or any other fever reducing medication.

We understand that many of the above symptoms might be just a cold or allergies – BUT – we are not allowed to make any exceptions to the rule out of an abundance of caution. No one, not even a doctor, knows for sure if it is just a cold unless there is a COVID-19 test.

**So, even if your child's pediatrician says, "It's just a cold" and writes a note for the child to return to school, the Department of Health mandates that a pediatrician's statement is not sufficient.**

**If a child has symptoms, the only way they can return to school is after 10 days from onset of the symptoms or with proof of a negative COVID-19 test.**

Please know that the same standard applies to all our staff as well. If a staff member come to work with a symptom of COVID-19, they will be sent home and will either stay home for 10 days or provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test before they can return to work.

Thank you for your understanding.