

## ILLNESS & IMMUNIZATION POLICY

Immunization is one of the best ways parents in the San Fernando Valley and around the world can protect their children and infants from 14 serious childhood diseases. **Make sure your child is up to date on immunizations with this schedule** that can be found at the following URL as provided by the state of California:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/child-adolescent.html>

The recommended immunization schedule for children includes vaccination protection against all of the following diseases:

- Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)
- Diphtheria
- Hepatitis A
- Hepatitis B
- Influenza
- Measles
- Mumps
- Pertussis (whooping cough)
- Pneumococcal disease
- Polio
- Rubella (German measles)
- Tetanus (lockjaw)
- Rotavirus
- Varicella (chickenpox)

Immunizations have helped to greatly improve the health of children in the United States. Most parents today have never seen first-hand the devastating consequences that vaccine-preventable diseases can have on a family or a community like the San Fernando Valley. While most of these diseases are not common in the United States, they persist around the world. It is important that we continue to protect our children with vaccines because outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases can and do occasionally occur in this country.

**In cases where we are not legally required to permit an exemption, full immunizations will be required according to the recommended schedule set forth by the State of California.** Parents or guardians may request that their child receive an exemption from Casa Montessori's vaccination requirements, however, eligibility for exemption will be determined based on a range of reasonable factors including medical considerations and other relevant factors. In cases where we have a legal obligation to accommodate such exemptions, we will follow the procedures set by state law. **We may deny a request for an exemption, or rescind a request that has been granted, where legally permissible, if we believe that lack of vaccination presents a serious risk to the campus community or to the specific student.**

**All children at Casa Montessori are required to be fully immunized, unless a medical exemption or other legally enforceable exemption is presented to the Administration.**

## Illness Policy

**Wash, Clean, Sanitize. Stay home if ill.**

### Children become ill by catching viruses

Your child becomes ill by catching viruses, (a.k.a. Germs, bacteria): from other children at school, from you (after getting something from work or elsewhere), from neighbors, from brothers and sisters, etc. Viruses are transferred: by touching others, breathing airborne viruses, touching items with viruses on them etc. Colds are not caused by cold weather, rain, exposure to cold, air conditioning, or changes in temperature. The ONLY way to catch a cold is to be infected by a virus.

**At Casa Montessori we follow this strict illness policy to help keep your child from getting ill too often.**

The following are some common illnesses children contract. The right-hand column states our general policy on school attendance with these illnesses. Casa Montessori reserves the right to exclude a child from school at any time for any reason, even if a doctor or other recommends otherwise. If your child visits a doctor, please ask for a return authorization note. Even with a note, Casa Montessori reserves the right to refuse attendance at any time for any reason. (If we have 3 or more children showing signs of an illness, we will provide more information on the illness.)

### **If your child is sent home with an illness today he/she will not be permitted back to school tomorrow.**

Illness	Can my child come to school?
<a href="#">Chicken Pox</a>	Must stay home until blisters have scabbed over. Six days to two weeks or more.
Cold, CLEAR Runny Nose (Usually allergies) w/o any of the other illness signs	As long as the child is comfortable and "feeling up to it," he or she can attend. (The other children have already been exposed to the virus since symptoms do not appear until a few days after.)
<a href="#">Croup</a>	Must stay home until a doctor provides a return authorization.
<a href="#">Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)</a>	Must stay home for at least 24 hours after receiving doctor prescribed medication. There

Illness	Can my child come to school?
	must be no eye discharge.
<u>Diaper Rash</u>	Keep clean & dry & apply over the counter treatments. Children can attend as normal.
<u>Diarrhea (2-3 times) and/or Vomiting that is/are not symptomatic of an illness.</u>	Should stay home for 24 hours after symptoms stop as long as not symptomatic of an illness.
<u>Fever – Any fever registering above 99 degrees, or any signs of a fever: warm touch, lethargy, sweating, chills...</u>	Should stay home until fever is gone. Child must be fever free for 24 hours w/o being on any fever reducing medication before returning to school
<u>Flu (aches, fever, vomiting/diarrhea, chills, etc)</u>	Must stay home for at least 24 hours after ALL symptoms have stopped.
<u>Hand, Foot &amp; Mouth Disease (Rash/blisters)</u>	Must stay home until blisters & scabs are completely gone. Usually 3-5 days.
<u>Impetigo</u>	Must stay home until blisters & scabs are completely gone after using Dr. prescribed antibiotics.
<u>Lice</u>	Must go home immediately to receive treatment at home and can return the next day as long as there are no live lice present. Consult pediatrician, pharmacist...
<u>Roseola and other rashes, blisters, etc.</u>	Not permitted back to school until cleared by a doctor and Casa Montessori staff. You must get a return authorization from the doctor. Never send your child to school with an unidentified rash.

Illness	Can my child come to school?
<p><u>Running nose with green or discolored discharge (May be a bacterial infection)</u></p>	<p>Must stay home for at least 24 hours after receiving doctor prescribed medication. May return if Doctor sends return authorization explaining the cause of discharge and confirming it is not contagious.</p>
<p><u>Strep Throat</u></p>	<p>Must stay home for at least 24 hours after receiving doctor prescribed antibiotics.</p>
<p><u>Thrush (white patches inside the mouth)</u></p>	<p>Must stay home for 24 hours after being prescribed anti-fungal medication.</p>

**Children are observed at drop off time & throughout the day**

Upon arrival every child is welcomed and checked in by a teacher. If a child appears to be ill, the child cannot be dropped off. Parents must make sure their children are accepted into the classrooms before signing in & leaving. If a child gets sick during the day, we let the child rest away from other children and call the parents for an immediate pickup.

**Parents must have an illness plan**

It is important that you decide ahead of time what you will do when your child can not come to school due to illness. You might:

- Keep your child at home with you
- Have a backup care plan with Grandma or Grandpa or another loved one
- Take the day off work
- Work from home
- Trade off stay at home duties with your spouse, friend or neighbor

**Teachers trained in Illness Prevention and CPR & First Aid**

To help keep your child as healthy as possible all teachers are trained in illness prevention, universal precautions, CPR, and First Aid.

**Cleaning & sanitizing helps prevent the spread of viruses**

We help control the spread of viruses with regular cleaning and sanitizing of changing tables, sinks, bathrooms, floors, carpets, toys, equipment etc. We dispose of waste, trash and diapers properly. We prepare and keep food in clean areas and wash and sanitize all dishes, utensils, etc.

**Washing hands often helps prevent the spread of illnesses**

We, both teachers and children, wash our hands regularly throughout the day and always before we eat.

**Always wash yours and your child's hands before leaving school**

Did you know you can decrease your child's illnesses by as much as 50% by simply washing his or her hands before leaving schools, grocery stores, movie theaters, or other social gatherings? It's true! So be sure to wash those hands. Learn more [here](#).

**No policy will prevent all illnesses**

If you and/or your child come into contact with others you are very likely to contract an illness no matter how careful you are. Illnesses pass from person to person in any social setting. We make every effort to minimize their spread at school, but nothing can prevent it all the time.

**If your child will be out for any reason please call or email the school by 10:00 a.m.**

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