



Exclusion Due to Illness Policy

Please take a moment to read the policy in its entirety.

This policy may be amended as needed in response to rapidly changing circumstances related to COVID-19.

The Academy of the Sacred Heart follows the recommendations of the Oakland County Health Department, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services regarding communicable diseases. The exclusion period recommended is the minimum amount of time and applies to uncomplicated cases. Often the school will require a letter of clearance from your child's pediatrician in addition to keeping your child home during the exclusion period.

We understand the need for parents to return to work. However, we are responsible for the well-being of all students under our care. **Therefore, the school reserves the right to request a clearance note from a physician at the school's discretion.**

Be advised that on the average, a child in daycare/school may experience eight to ten illnesses a year. These illnesses may lead a child to be excluded from care on an average of 5-14 days a year. This is normal and expected. Children build up their immune system over time, beginning with enrollment in a daycare/school setting. **It is imperative that parents or another family caregiver pick up ill children from school in a timely manner (within 1 hour). Please establish a back up plan if this isn't possible.**

Please note that due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, our school policy has changed to help our children, families, and faculty/staff remain healthy. Our "24 hour rule" has changed to "72 hour rule". In addition to the "72 hour rule", a letter from a physician stating the student is cleared to return to school may be required prior to a child's return.

The school cleans and disinfects according to daycare and school guidelines in order to prevent the spread of illness. The school will be taking additional precautionary measures to prevent the spread of illness as well (screening, social distancing, and wearing personal protective equipment).

- Pinkeye (Conjunctivitis) policy: students with bacterial conjunctivitis are required to complete 24 hours of antibiotic treatment before returning to school. If a student has been diagnosed with viral or allergic conjunctivitis, and eye drops are not prescribed, a student must be symptom-free before returning to school. The school reserves the right to request a letter of clearance from a physician.
- Strep throat policy: students diagnosed with strep throat are required to complete a minimum of 24 hours of antibiotic treatment AND be fever free for 72 hours before returning to school. The school reserves the right to request a letter of clearance from a

physician.

- Any student with a rash and additional symptoms of illness (fever, vomiting, diarrhea, headache, sore throat) will be encouraged to be evaluated by a doctor and a clearance note will be required in addition to the exclusion period advised by the Oakland County Health Department (Chickenpox; Fifth Disease; Hand, Foot and Mouth). Generalized hives, drainage from wounds, and a skin condition that causes the child to be unable to focus on learning will be excluded at the nurse's discretion until under the care of a physician. A clearance note from the physician may be required prior to returning to school.
- Lice policy: parents will be notified and are expected to pick their child up in a timely manner if diagnosed with lice while at school. Students will be excluded from school until after the first treatment and there are no live lice.
- Diarrhea policy: For Early Childhood Program students who are not potty trained, parents are expected to pick their child up after the second loose/diarrhea diaper. Students who are potty trained and have a diarrhea accident at school will be sent home. Students are excluded until diarrhea-free for 72 hours and no other symptoms have developed. If a student develops other symptoms of COVID-19, parents should contact a physician or the local health department for COVID-19 testing. If other symptoms of COVID-19 develop, a 10-day exclusion may be required from the day symptoms develop. A clearance note from the physician may be required prior to returning to school.
- Vomiting policy: A student who vomits at school will be required to be picked up by a parent. Students must be vomit-free for a minimum of 72 hours before returning to school. If other symptoms of COVID-19 develop, parents should contact a physician or the local health department for COVID-19 testing. If other symptoms of COVID-19 develop, a 10-day exclusion may be required from the day symptoms develop. A clearance note from the physician may be required prior to returning to school.
- Cough policy: A cough is a symptom of COVID-19. If a student has a persistent cough (excluding a cough due to known allergies or asthma), parents are expected to pick the child up and should contact a physician or the local health department for COVID-19 testing. A clearance note from the physician will be required prior to returning and a 10-day exclusion may be required.
- Fever policy: Students are excluded for 72 hours after being fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medication and when no other symptoms of COVID-19 have developed. A fever is a temperature above 99.4° F with a touchless, infrared thermometer or above, or 100.4° F with a tympanic thermometer (ear). If other symptoms of COVID-19 develop, parents should contact a physician or the local health department for COVID-19 testing.

- COVID-19 policy: If a student has symptoms of COVID-19, but is not tested, the student is excluded from school until 10 days have passed since symptoms appeared, symptoms have improved AND the student is fever-free for over 72 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. If a student tested positive for COVID-19, the student must have two negative tests in a row spaced 24 hours apart, be fever free and have symptoms improved in order to return to school. The school reserves the right to require proof of testing, results, and a clearance note from a doctor.
- If a student has come in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 or has traveled internationally, he/she will be excluded from school for 14 days.

If you have any questions regarding the school's policy or are reporting a communicable illness, the school nurse, Robin Clements, can be reached at rclements@ashmi.org.