

STUDENT ILLNESS AND SICKLEAVE POLICY

Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to reduce the spread of illness in school and it outlines procedures to be followed in the event of a student illness. Making sure your child's attendance in school is your legal responsibility as a parent/guardian. To minimize the risk of illness, Woodlem Park School clinic strictly follows the Dubai Health Authority's guidelines.

For safety reasons, parents need to communicate with the school to know your child is safe at home, therefore, all absence from school must be accounted for on a daily basis. Please send an email to the school/ class teacher before 8:00 am if your child is absent. (as per School Policy)

Please **DO NOT** send your child to school if they have the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Skin Rash
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Breathing difficulty
- Headache
- Heavy nasal discharge
- Sore throat
- Persistent Cough
- Red, watery and painful eyes

Common Conditions

Most illnesses can be classified as one of a few minor health conditions. Whether or not you send your child to school will depend on how severe you judge the illness to be. This guidance can help you to make that judgement. If you are concerned about your child's health, please consult a health professional.

To minimise the risk of transmission of infection to others, the following guidelines are instructed by Dubai Health Authority.

DISEASE/ILLNESS	MINIMAL EXCLUSION PERIOD
Fever	In the present situation the child should be taken to the clinic/hospital for further evaluation by a doctor.
Chicken pox	Excluded from school until vesicles become dry or 10 days from appearance of rash.
Diarrhoea/vomiting/stomach pain	Children with these conditions should be kept away from school. They can return 48 hours after their symptoms have settled. In the present situation further evaluation is needed (should be taken to clinic/hospital).
Conjunctivitis/sore eyes	Child should stay away from school until discharge from eyes has ceased.
Sore throat	In the present situation the child should be taken to the clinic/hospital and should be assessed by a doctor.
Measles	Until at least five days from the appearance of rash, or until receipt of medical certificate of recovery from infection.
Cough and cold	If the cold is accompanied by shivers or drowsiness, the child should stay away from school and return to school 24hours after they are feeling better. If your child has a severe and long lasting cough, consult your doctor. In the present situation, cough and cold should be evaluated by a doctor even if it is mild.
Impetigo	Until sores have fully healed, or if necessary the student could come back earlier if exposed sores are covered with occlusive dressing. To be taken for further evaluation.
Mumps	Exclusion from school, child care or workplace until nine days after the onset of swelling. Until Fully recovered.
Scabies	Until appropriate treatment has commenced.
Scarlet fever	Exclude from schools and children's settings until a medical certificate of recovery from infection has been obtained.

Student who is unwell at school

If a child becomes ill at school, every effort will be made to contact their parents/ guardians. It is therefore important to keep the school informed of any changes to land phone/mobile number.

In the event of a student having an injury during school hours, the school clinic will assess the severity of the injury and make the decision to apply first aid measures accordingly. Any significant injury or accident will be reported to the parent immediately. On occasions where an emergency response is required; the school may make the decision to take the child to the Hospital and will call an ambulance from a **Hospital** in Dubai where they will meet up with parents.

Chronic illness

For children suffering from chronic illness such as Convulsion, Bronchial asthma, and Diabetes, the parents are requested to report it to the school clinic and submit a medical report in such cases. The school clinic needs to keep confidentiality of chronic cases and it is required to share with the teachers who involved with the child only. The emergency medications should be submitted to the school clinic and it should be carefully labelled with the student's name, required dose and route of administration. For administering medicine, written authorization must be provided by the Parent / guardian supported with the prescription of consulting doctor. No student is allowed to carry any medicine into the class under any circumstances. If a student has any allergic conditions like rhinitis or other forms of allergy, parents should inform the school clinic and submit the medical report in order to avoid confusion of COVID-19 pandemic symptoms.

COVID 19 infection

If a child begins to show symptoms of COVID-19 (stable or unstable) while at school, he/she will be shifted to the isolation room immediately. The parent of the child will immediately be notified. If the suspected case is stable, then the student may be handed over to the parents/guardian/competent member of the family or emergency contact. In the event of unstable cases of students, the parents/guardians or the emergency contact have to be informed immediately. The case must be managed by the ambulance service and where necessary transferred to a hospital setting for medical treatment and follow up.

The patient will not be allowed to return to school until the COVID PCR result is obtained. If the result is positive and there is a clinical assessment of a probable COVID-19 case, the patient should complete 10-day isolation. If the result is negative and there is no clinical

assessment for a probable case, the child can resume schooling as long as they are symptom-free.

Parents or guardians of a student with a positive PCR result are required to report the result to the responsible person in the school (School clinic or HSO – health and safety officer). If the result is positive for COVID-19, it should be notified to DHA. The student should provide clearance certificate to the school clinic upon the arrival from the treating health facility or by calling 800-342 for a clearance certificate or they can submit one Negative PCR test after completing 10 days period of isolation to the school clinic upon the arrival. The school doctor/nurse is required to undertake and document a virtual check-up to ensure that the student does not have any symptoms and is in good health before they are allowed to return to school. The distant check-up takes place one to two days, prior to returning to the school. If the student is given a clearance to resume school, during the distant check-up, he/she may return to school on the return date specified. On arrival, they must attend the school clinic before going to class where the doctor/nurse will conduct a final assessment before allowing the child to resume learning activities.

The traced contacts of the patient, including teachers along with the classmates of a student, or colleagues are all considered close contacts (anyone who spent more than 15 minutes in a proximity of 2 meters with the positive case, from the day of symptoms onset, or the day of the positive PCR test) should commence the 10-day mandatory quarantine counted from the day of the positive test, or from the day of the onset of symptoms. Close contacts should shift to distant learning. The close contact does not require a negative PCR report to return to the educational and academic settings unless symptoms develop. If the close contact develops symptoms, he/she shall be PCR tested and parents should be notified to the school clinic regarding the same.

Student who become unwell at home

During this COVID- 19 pandemic, if the child has fever or cough, watering nose, sneezing, respiratory difficulty, headache, vomiting, diarrhoea or loss of taste or smell, do not send the child to school. If the symptoms are suggestive of a susceptible COVID- 19 condition, or your child had contact with a COVID 19 positive case, please take the child to the hospital for necessary action and follow the treating doctor's instructions. Parents should notify the school clinic regarding the same.

We hope that this policy offers some help in assessing whether or not to send your child to school in the event that they may not be well. In issuing this policy, we wish to reassure you that your child's health is important to us.

If you need any further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher, school clinic (Tel No: 042040917, email: clinic@woodlemdubai.ae).