

SHIRLEE GREEN PRESCHOOL
Illness Protocols



*A fit body, a calm mind, a house full of love. These things cannot be bought
– they must be earned.*

- Naval Ravikant

Days of illness are rarely planned, but they are always expected when young humans are involved. As their small bodies build up immunities, school is often when exposure to new combinations of viruses occur. Sooner or later, children become sick. Some get a heavy dose of exposure in preschool years. For those who don't, they become sick more often in the elementary years, research asserts. Having kids means having sick days.

Though inevitable, we aim to reduce the incidence of transmission of illness. It's a team effort and we work with each family to keep Shirlee Green Preschool a healthy space for children.

Every day, we must earn our healthy environment through cautious consideration of whether a child is too sick or contagious to join other children in the school community. Ours is a small community of dedicated, thoughtful teachers and families. It is a beloved extended family united in our support of the young children in our care. Please use this as your guide to determine when your child should stay home.



Brandi Kanoya
Director of Shirlee Green Preschool

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ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

To support you through each year, the faculty, staff, and administration of Shirlee Green Preschool will remain available to talk and chat via email and phone. Each illness may bring about new questions and considerations. When you feel the need to reach out or if you just want to chat, Shirlee Green Preschool is ready for you. We await every opportunity eagerly to help every family find balance and rhythm for themselves and their family.

In case of illness or to check if your child is able to attend with certain symptoms, please call the Shirlee Green Preschool office. Please also call the office to report your child will be absent.

When a child has tested positive for certain illnesses, an SGP Illness Update will be emailed to all families.

Shirlee Green Preschool

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THE ILL CHILD

It is our aim to reduce the spread of illness on campus and to allow young children time to rest and recuperate during and after illness. Children may not attend SGP when they are not feeling well and/or they are unable to participate in the full day's activity. We insist that parents/guardians keep children home when they show signs of illness and until they are free of fever, vomiting, and/or diarrhea for a minimum of 24 hours without the aid of medication. This will assist in preventing the spread of germs on campus. If a teacher has concerns about a child's health, the child will be removed from the classroom and the parent/guardian will be contacted for pickup from school. If a parent/guardian cannot be contacted, SGP will contact the individual(s) listed as Emergency Contact. Children should be picked up within 1 hour of contact from SGP.

A child returning to SGP after an illness must be well enough and meet all return-to-school criteria by the start of our 9am school day. In addition to following the return-to-program criteria, parents/guardians may be required to provide a preschool administrator with a note from the child's health care provider *before the child returns* identifying the cause of the illness, that the cause is not contagious, and that the child is able to participate fully in the program. A doctor's note does not exempt a child from following the return-to-program criteria.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

Parents/guardians are expected to call SGP when your child is ill with any suspected or diagnosed case of contagious/communicable disease. The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services mandates reporting of certain illnesses. Examples of reportable illnesses include but are not limited to vaccine-preventable diseases (ex. whooping cough). Other diseases are communicable but are not listed as "reportable". Examples of these diseases include chickenpox, fifth disease, impetigo, conjunctivitis, ringworm, strep throat, and influenza-like illnesses. SGP staff will be alert and watch for similar symptoms in other children. If any contagious disease is present on campus, an email is sent to parents/guardians, to allow all to remain alert to the symptoms in their child.

With the comfort and health of the individual child and community health in mind, the following symptoms will require a child to remain home until return-to-school clearance has been given by SGP.

When considering if your child may come to school or remain at school, the following conditions preclude attendance at SGP:

- An illness, discomfort, or exhaustion that prevents the child from participating comfortably in the full day,
- An illness that calls for greater care than staff can provide and/or compromising the health and safety of other children,

- Unusual lethargy, irritability, persistent crying, uncontrollable coughing, difficulty breathing or other signs of possible severe illness,
- Heavy clear nasal discharge,
- Green nasal discharge.

If your child has a cold, continuously runny nose, or just appears to be ill, you may receive a call to pick your child up at school.

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services mandates that children with any of the following symptoms be kept at home. If your child exhibits any of the following symptoms, they must stay home, or if at SGP will be sent home and must follow the listed exclusion policy:

- **Exclusion: Fever** defined as temperature of 100° F or higher by mouth or 99° F or higher under the arm, temporal, or other infrared thermometers during the last 24-hour period

Return: When otherwise well and has been free of fever for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.

- **Exclusion: Diarrhea** is defined as abnormally loose or watery stool, decreased form in stool, or increased frequency of passing stool that is not associated with changes in diet or medication or stool that is white or gray or contains blood not explainable by dietary changes, medication, or hard stools. Children with diarrheal illness should not be in preschool programming.

Return: Once the diarrhea resolves with a regular stool, when the child seems otherwise well, and when stool cultures, if indicated, are negative. Children whose stools remain loose but who are otherwise well and whose stool cultures are negative need not continue to be excluded. When the origin of the diarrhea is in question, an explanatory note from the child's health care provider will be required by the preschool staff before the child returns.

- **Exclusion: Uncontrolled coughing or difficult or rapid breathing.**

Return: When the cause for the symptoms has been identified by a health care provider, the child is on appropriate treatment, and the child is well enough to participate fully in the educational day. An explanatory note from the child's health care provider may be required by the preschool staff before the child returns.

- **Exclusion: Whooping cough (pertussis).**

Return: When the cause of symptoms has been identified by a health care provider, five days of antibiotic treatment have been complete, and the child is well enough to participate fully during the school day.

- **Exclusion: Redness or yellow color of the eyelids or lining of the eyes,** irritation of the eye, swelling of the eyelids or crusting, discharge or drainage from the eye, increased tearing, sensitivity to light (one or both eyes may be affected with any of the symptoms)

Return: When the cause of the symptoms has been identified by a health care provider, and the child has been on appropriate treatment, if indicated, for 24 hours, *and* there is no discharge, unless the cause for the discharge is linked to a blocked tear duct or allergies (as indicated by a health care provider). In the case of blocked tear duct(s) or allergies, an exception to this exclusion may be made if there is a current note in the preschool's health file from the child's health care provider that the child has a blocked tear duct (applicable to children up to nine months of age) or allergic conjunctivitis. —In all other cases of eye symptoms described under the exclusion section, an explanatory note from the child's health care provider may be required by the preschool staff before the child returns.

- **Exclusion: Drainage from the ear(s).**

Return: When the cause of the drainage has been determined by a health care provider, and the child has been on appropriate treatment, if indicated, for 24 hours, and there is no drainage. An explanatory note from the child's health care provider may be required by the preschool staff before the child returns.

- **Exclusion: Unusual skin spots or rash** or areas that are crusted or yellow or dry or gummy or draining or blistered or yellow color to the skin.

Return: A note from the child's health care provider may be required before the child returns to preschool indicating 1) the cause of the rash has been identified, 2) the child is not contagious and 3) the child is able to participate fully in the educational day. If the cause of the rash is contagious and medication has been prescribed, in addition to a note from the child's health care provider, the child is to have been taking the medication for a full 24 hours.

- **Exclusion: Sore throat or trouble swallowing**

Return: When the child has been under appropriate treatment for 24 hours, without fever for 24 hours, and is able to participate fully in the day. An explanatory note from the child's health care provider may be required by the preschool staff before the child returns.

- **Exclusion: Impetigo**

Return: When the cause of the symptoms has been identified by a health care provider, and the child has been on appropriate treatment, if indicated, for 24 hours, lesions are able to be safely covered, and all sores are drying.

- **Exclusion: Headache**

Return: When the child is able to participate fully in the day and has been headache free for 24 hours. An explanatory note from the child's health care provider may be required by the preschool staff before the child returns.

- **Exclusion: Headache with stiff neck**

Return: When evaluation by a health care provider finds no evidence of a communicable disease, or, if communicable, 24 hours after appropriate treatment has been initiated and the child is no longer communicable and is able to participate fully in the preschool day without discomfort or fever.

- **Exclusion: Vomiting**

Return: When the child has been free of vomiting, resumes normal activities and diet for 24 hours, and is free of fever for 24 hours. A note from the child's health care provider may be required before the child returns to preschool indicating 1) the cause of the vomiting has been identified, 2) the cause is not contagious and 3) the child is able to participate fully in the educational day.

- **Exclusion: Hand, Foot, and Mouth, or blister-like sores or rash in mouth, on palms and fingers of the hands and bottom of the feet.**

Return: When evaluation of a health care provider finds no evidence of a communicable disease, or, if communicable, child has been fever-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, and child is able to fully participate throughout the day.

- **Exclusion: Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)**

Return: When the cause of symptoms has been identified by a health care provider, the child has been fever-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication and is well enough to participate fully during the school day.

- **Exclusion: Severe itching of the body or scalp** or scratching of the scalp that may be symptoms of lice or scabies.

Return: If the child has head lice, the Head Lice Policy will be followed. If the cause of the symptoms is unknown, a note from the child's health care provider will be required before the child returns to preschool indicating 1) the cause is not contagious, 2) the child is able to participate fully in the educational day, and 3) the child has been on treatment, if indicated, for 24 hours or longer, depending on the nature of the condition.

- **Exclusion: On-going, severe, recurrent pain** that interferes with participation in preschool or may be indicative of a more serious health problem.

Return: When the cause of the pain has been identified by a health care provider, treatment has been initiated, and the child can participate fully in the educational day. A note from the child's health care provider may be required before the child returns to preschool.

LICE

Pediculosis, or head lice infestation, is a recurring problem in children. SGP upholds a policy to reduce the risk of transmission to and re-infestation of others in our school setting. Children with live lice will not be permitted to attend SGP until all evidence of live lice is eliminated.

When a case of head lice is reported in our building, we immediately follow a protocol that includes notifying parents/guardians as well as removing pillows, dress-up clothes, stuffed animals, etc.

For the safety of all children, failure to comply with SGP's Illness Policy may jeopardize your child's enrollment.

MEDICATION AT PRESCHOOL

If your child needs medication (prescription or over the counter) administered at SGP, the following procedures are required:

- For any over-the-counter medications that are ingested, the “Medication Authorization Form” must be signed by a licensed health care provider, including instructions for administration and dosing.
- For topical medication, the “Topical Medication Authorization Form” must be completed. It may be required to be signed by a licensed health care provider, including instruction for administration and dosing.
- All medications must be sent to school in a clear, resealable bag, clearly labeled with the child’s full name.
- Prescription medication containers must be in the original container and must have the original label with the child’s name, physician’s name and dosing information clearly displayed.
- Prescription medications must be used during the prescribed time frame for the diagnosed condition.
- To administer any prescription or over-the-counter medication, a “Medication Administration Consent Log” must be filled out each day the medication will be administered. To complete, contact an SGP administrator at drop off.
- Expired medication will not be administered.
- Siblings are not permitted to share medication.

In addition to the above noted information, the following medication guidelines apply:

- The preschool staff will not administer the first dose of any medication.
- Staff designated to administer medication may not have had previous medical training.
- For medication which is to be given regularly for greater than one month, each time medication is sent, it should be only a one-month supply.
- All discontinued or unused medication must be picked up by the parent/guardian or will be disposed of by SGP within five (5) days after the administration period has ended.
- Based upon an official policy of the AMA, medication orders from the child’s parent who is a licensed health care provider will NOT be accepted.

GENERAL PROTOCOLS FOR PREVENTION OF COVID-19 SPREAD

During times of high COVID presence in the community, the preschool campus may undergo increased and targeted cleaning and sanitizing. Cleaning and sanitation schedules may be increased, all staff receive training in all COVID-19 protocols, and classroom and communal spaces may be altered to meet CDC and DHSS guidelines. Please review our protocols regularly to stay apprised of all efforts to mitigate the spread of communicable disease. The most up to date COVID policy can be found at the SGP website, shirleegreenpreschool.org.