



March 6, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Out of an abundance of caution due to the current world health situation, I wanted to once again relay our health policies - in addition to *two (2) modifications incorporated as of today* (March 6, 2020):

- 1.) A child who has been excluded from classes or school-related events may return after being evaluated by a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner through a signed medical note, and it has been determined that he/she is considered to pose no serious health risk to him/her or to the other children.
- 2.) (In reference to fevers equal to or greater than 100.5) The child may return to school when they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the assistance of medication.

We will continue our diligence with disinfecting the building, along with promoting proper health practices with students.

Please find our policies, with the aforementioned modifications included, **attached** to this message.

As always, thank you for your support of our ongoing efforts to keep everyone happy, healthy, and safe at St. Peter Academy!

Sincerely,

Mr. Frank Galligan, Ed.M.  
Principal

**Character and Courage**



2019-2020 Academic Year  
**Plan for Managing Infectious Diseases & Mildly Ill Children**

Staff will take extra special precautions when children who are ill are diagnosed at St. Peter Academy and when children who are mildly ill remain at the Academy.

Children who exhibit symptoms of the following types of infectious diseases such as, gastro-intestinal, respiratory, and skin and direct contact infections may be excluded from St. Peter Academy if it is determined that any two of the following exist:

- The illness prevents the child from participating in the program activities or from resting comfortably
- The illness results in greater care need that the child care staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of the other children
- The child has any of the following conditions: fever, unusual lethargy, irritability, persistent crying, difficult breathing, or other signs of serious illness
- Diarrhea two or more times in the previous 24 hours at home or once at the academy
- Vomiting two or more times in the previous 24 hours at home or once at the academy
- Mouth sores, unless physician states that the child is non-infectious
- Rash with a fever or behavior change until the physician has determined that the illness is not a communicable disease
- Purulent conjunctivitis (defined as pink or red conductive with white or yellow discharge, often with matted eyelids) until examined by a physician and approved for readmission, with or without treatment
- Tuberculosis, until the child is non-infectious
- Impetigo, until 24 hours after treatment has started or all the sores are covered
- Head lice, free of all nits or scabies-and free of all mites
- Strep infection, until 24 hours after treatment has begun and the child has been without fever for 24 hours
- Many types of hepatitis are caused by viruses. The symptoms are so alike that blood tests are needed to tell them apart. In the U.S. the most common types of hepatitis are A, B, and C. Types Band C are spread through blood and other body fluids. Type A is spread through contaminated food and water or feces. Fact sheets can be obtained from the State Department of Public health. [www.state.ma/us/dph](http://www.state.ma/us/dph)
- Chicken pox, until last blister has healed over.

A child who has been excluded from classes or school-related events may return after being evaluated by a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner through a signed medical note, and it has been determined that he/she is considered to pose no serious health risk to him /her or to the other children. Nevertheless, St. Peter Academy may make the final decision concerning the inclusion or exclusion of the child.

If a child has already been admitted to the academy and shows signs of illness—a temperature equal to or greater than 100.5 degrees by oral, axillary, or forehead scanner route, a rash, reduced activity level, and diarrhea are all examples that show signs of illness. He/she will be offered their mat, or a comfortable spot in which to lie down. If the child manifests any of the symptoms requiring exclusion as listed above, or it is determined that it is in the best interest of the child that he/she be taken home, his/her parent will be contacted immediately and asked to pick up the child as soon as possible. The child may return to school when they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the assistance of medication.

When a communicable disease has been introduced to the academy, parents will be notified immediately, and in writing from the principal. Whenever possible, information regarding the communicable disease shall be made available to parents. DPH must be contacted when there is a reportable communicable disease in the program.

### **Immunizations and Communicable Diseases**

The program requires, on admission, a physician's certificate that each child has been successfully immunized in accordance with the Department of Public Health's recommended schedule. No child shall be required under 102 CMR 7.00 to have any such immunization if his parent(s) object, in writing on the grounds that it conflicts with their religious beliefs or if the child's physician submits documentation that such a procedure is contraindicated. This must be maintained in the child's file. No child will be admitted into the program without the required documentation for immunizations.

Childhood lead screening must be done on all children; it is not considered an immunization. The program will maintain a list of the children who have documented exemptions from immunizations and these children will be excluded from attending when a vaccine preventable disease is introduced to the program. The Massachusetts Immunization Program provides childhood vaccines.

### **Plan for Mildly Ill Children**

Children who are mildly ill may remain in school if they are not contagious (refer to Plan for Infectious Disease) and they can participate in the daily program including outside time.

If a child's condition worsens or, if it is determined that the child poses a threat to the health of the other children, or if the child cannot be cared for by the classroom staff, the principal will contact the child's parent(s). The parent(s) will be asked to pick up the child. The child will be cared for in a quiet area, a classroom or in the office by a qualified staff member or the principal until the parents arrive to take the child home.

Any toys, blankets or mats used by an ill child will be cleaned and disinfected before being used by other children.