

Woods Hole Day Care Cooperative
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Health Policies

Your health care provider must complete the State Health forms each year for your child to attend the Coop. These should be updated throughout the year each time your child receives immunization. State regulations require that your child's immunizations be up-to-date. These immunizations include HIB, HepB, DPT, MMR, pertussis, varicella/chicken pox and polio injections. If you have a *medical* exemption, the Coop will need a signed note from the child's doctor on file. Your child will also need to have the appropriate lead-screening test.

Lead Poisoning: Children are exposed to many sources of lead in their normal environments. Young children are at greatest risk for lead poisoning because of their natural curiosity and hand-to-mouth activity. Small amounts of lead poisoning may affect a child's behavior and ability to learn. Large amounts may cause serious damage to the brain, kidneys, nervous system, and red blood cells. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health has requirements for lead screenings. Information about this can be found at your pediatrician's office. You can have the test done in your pediatrician's office, or arrangements can be made through the Department of Public Health for a free lead-screening test. For more information contact the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program at 1-800-532-9571.

Children who are sick may not attend the school until they are no longer contagious. They need to be free of symptoms, including a temperature, for 24 hours. A list of health guidelines is enclosed for you to refer to. If your child becomes ill during the school day, we will contact you. A quiet place will be made available for your child to rest until arrangements are made for them to go home. In such cases, the child is expected to be picked up within 1 hour and will be sent home with an 'Illness Report' describing the observed symptoms and the child's earliest return date.

Due to state regulations, all prescription, non-prescription, oral, and topical medication needs to be provided by the parent in the original container (a second labeled container can be obtained from your pharmacist upon request). All medication will need parental and physician's written permission to be dispensed. Parent consent forms are available at the school. The name of the child, name of the medication, the dosage, time of administration and route to give the child must be included with all the medications given to the teacher. The staff will dispense only according to the directions on the container or physician/pharmacist's descriptive order and will never give the first dose of any medication. All medication will be stored properly. Each time a child receives any medication the staff will document and inform parents. Medication for chronic illnesses need to be accompanied by an Individual Health Care Plan (IHCP) from the child's physician. IHCP forms are available at the school. More in-depth information is found in our Health Care Policy which you may see upon request.

In the event of an emergency or accident, staff will apply necessary First Aid, call Rescue Squad if necessary, and attempt to contact you. If we cannot reach you, we will contact your family physician. If your doctor cannot be reached, we will try to consult with our Health Care Consultant, or have the child transported to the Falmouth Hospital emergency room via Rescue Squad. All staff at the school have received approved training in emergency first aid and CPR. We will notify you in writing within 24 hours if any First Aid is administered to your child.

The WHDCC has a Health Care Policy and a contingency plan for emergency situations which are available to you upon request.

Our first aid kit has the following items included in it that the staff uses to perform first aid for the children. If your child is allergic to any of the following items you will need to indicate this on the registration forms:

band aids	tweezers	instant cold pack	hydrogen peroxide
gauze pads	disposable gloves	Vaseline	First aid cream
gauze rolls	thermometer	Desitin/A&D oint.	insect repellent
elastic bandages	Q-tips	sunscreen	eye wash cup
first aid tape	cotton balls	scissors	calamine lotion

WHDCC wants to prevent unnecessary exposure to children and employees to chemical pesticides and reduce the need to rely on chemical pesticides when managing pests. It is the policy of WHDCC to only use chemical pesticides when pests have been identified and their presence verified. Selection of treatment option or corrective actions will give priority to non-chemical actions whenever possible to provide the desired control of pest. When and if it is determined that pesticides are needed, only those allowed by the Children's and Families Protection Act will be used. Further, only certified and/or licensed individuals will be able to use pesticides. It is this school policy to make the appropriate notification and posting as well as keep records of all pesticide use. A copy of the school IPM Plan will be maintained in the Director's office and available upon request.

Health Guidelines

The following guidelines have been established to clarify the exclusion and re-admission policies for the Coop in the event of illness or contagious condition. Our intent is to keep the day care environment as healthy as possible for all children, guardians, and staff.

General Guidelines

1. A parent may be asked to verify a skin rash as non-contagious with a physician's note.
2. A parent may be asked to keep a child at home if a cold appears to be worsening or failing to improve.
3. If a child is treated with an antibiotic for a contagious condition, the child must have taken medication for at least 24 hours prior to re-admission.
4. The director reserves the right to request a physician's note for any questionable symptoms or conditions before re-admission is allowed.

Symptom	Description	Action Required
Fever	Child has a fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.	Child must be completely fever-free, without medication, for 24 hours before returning.
Cough	Child is exhibiting a cough that is chronic, deep, or hacking.	Child needs to stay home until cough is gone or may return with written doctor approval.
Diarrhea	Child has had 3 or more loose stools.	Child must stay home for 24-hours after the last episode.
Vomiting	Child has vomited today.	Child must stay home for 24-hours after the last episode.
Rash	Child has a skin irritation or rash with an unclear origin/ cause.	Child must stay home until rash is gone or may return with written doctor approval.
Suspected Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye)	Child has redness in or discharge from their left/ right eye.	Child must be seen by a doctor before returning. If confirmed case of conjunctivitis, child must be on antibiotics for a full 24 hours before returning to the program.
Stomach Ache	Child has shown signs of gastrointestinal distress (self-reported discomfort, decreased appetite, cramping, etc.)	Child may attend program with a light stomach ache (no diarrhea, vomiting, or temp) if no other symptoms are present. In combination with other symptoms, or if causing obvious distress, child must stay home for 24 hours.
Sore Throat	Child appears to have one of the following: Swollen Tonsils/glands, white spots in throat, pain when swallowing, and/or self-reports of not feeling well.	Child may return 24 hours after symptoms have cleared or may return with written doctor approval.
Congestion	Child has had a runny/ congested nose today.	If no other symptoms are present and discharge is clear, no action is required. In combination with any other symptom, or if greenish discharge is observed, child must stay home for 24 hours after the last observed symptom or may return with written doctor approval.
Severe Cold	Child has had: congestion, low temperature, been lethargic, demeanor/ appearance shows signs of being generally unwell.	Child must stay home for at least 24 hours or symptoms have shown improvement.
Suspected Head Lice	Child has had a chronically itchy head and/or nits/lice have been detected.	Hair must be treated and completely nit-free before returning to program.

The Director will inform parents of any case of communicable disease or illness that has been reported or has occurred at the day care. When possible, parents will receive written information regarding the specific illness or condition, symptoms and precautions.

***COVID-19 Return & Exclusion**

If a child or staff member becomes ill, they will be removed from the group immediately. Guardians of the sick child will be contacted and asked to come get their child as soon as possible. An ill staff member will be sent home immediately. Additionally, we are asking families to keep their child home if any household member is ill, in quarantine, or awaiting test results. If a child or staff person shows COVID-19 like symptoms, they need to leave the center as soon as possible and see a doctor who may order a test. If the test is negative for COVID-19, the child may return in adherence to the Cooperative's Health Guidelines.

Without exception, we are still sending children home who exhibit:

• A Fever of over 100.0 F	• A loss of taste/smell	• Cough
• Sore throat	• Muscle Ache	• Gastrointestinal Distress

- We are also asking children be picked up if they show fatigue, headache, runny nose, or any other signs of illness in combination with another symptom.
- The Coop has the right to request a COVID-19 test prior to returning to the program if there is any cause for concern. If refused, we reserve the right to institute an exclusion period for a duration deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors in collaboration with our Health Care Consultant.