



LEWINSVILLE MONTESSORI

Infection Control Policy

It is inevitable that children will get sick, no matter where they are. As children begin to have contact with the world outside that of their own families, they come into contact with germs and bacteria that are foreign to their bodies. This is the way to build immunities. We cannot, nor would we want to, shield a child completely from the outside world. If we did, the natural immunities the child gains through contact with others would not develop and a simple cold could become a serious illness. We do, however, want to protect a child from an unusually high exposure to germs all at once.

In an early childhood educational setting, children come into contact with groups of other children outside their families. It is in this situation that the illness of one child can spread rapidly through the group to the other children and staff members if stringent measures to prevent this spread are not taken.

For this reason the staff at Lewinsville Montessori School (LMS) will take constant precautions to prevent the spread of disease. Many common childhood diseases are contagious. They are spread by germs, which may be spread in several ways. Intestinal tract infections are spread through stools. Respiratory tract infections are spread through coughs, sneezes, and runny noses. Other diseases are spread through direct contact. Careful hand washing by staff and children can eliminate approximately 75% of the risk of spreading these illnesses. Other precautions include separating sick children from those who are well, taking extra precautions with diapered or toilet training, and working to maintain sanitary conditions throughout the center.

Parents can help us in our effort to keep your children healthy. We ask your cooperation in the following ways:

- a) If your child has been exposed to any of the diseases listed on the accompanying chart, we ask you to notify us of the exposure.
- b) If your child shows any of the symptoms listed below, you will be called and asked to come immediately and get the child. Please help us protect the other children by responding promptly. If the child has any of the following symptoms at home, we ask you keep him/her out of school until symptoms are gone or until your physician says it is all right to return.

The symptoms include:

- ✓ fever - 101° degrees (or higher) **Must be “fever free” for 24 hours before returning**
- ✓ severe coughing – child gets red or blue in the face. Child makes high-pitched croupy or whooping sounds after the coughs
- ✓ difficult or rapid breathing – specially in infants
- ✓ yellowish skin or eyes
- ✓ pinkeye – tears, redness of eyelid-lining, followed by swelling and discharge of pus
- ✓ unusual spots or rashes

- ✓ sore throat or trouble or trouble swallowing
- ✓ infected skin patches
- ✓ crusty, bright yellow, dry, or gummy areas of skin – possibly accompanied by fever
- ✓ unusually dark, tea colored urine – especially with a fever
- ✓ gray or white stool
- ✓ headache and stiff neck
- ✓ vomiting
- ✓ severe itching of body or scalp or scratching of scalp

If any of above symptoms are present or if a child appears cranky or less active than usual, cries more than usual, or just seems generally unwell at home, you are asked to look for any of the above symptoms or inform the child's teacher so that the child can be watched carefully for the development of symptoms.

It is imperative that we all work together to keep all of the children who attend LMS as healthy and happy as possible. We thank you for your cooperation.