

# Groton Community School

## Child Illness Policy

### Children's Illness

If your child should become seriously ill (fever 100° F or higher, diarrhea, vomiting) during the day, we will make every effort to contact you directly. Children who are awaiting pickup due to illness are kept comfortable with an attending adult away from other children when possible. If we are unable to reach you, we will contact the person(s) listed by you on the emergency forms completed at the time of enrollment. The person(s) you designate on the Authorization and Consent form should live in the local area so that he/she can pick up your child if necessary. Your child must be picked up within one hour of our phone call. **PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU NOTIFY THE SCHOOL OF ANY CHANGE IN HOME, WORK, OR CELL PHONE NUMBERS. Any child sent home from the School because of serious illness may not return the following day.**

**Families can communicate health-related matters to the school via our [wellness@grotoncommunityschool.org](mailto:wellness@grotoncommunityschool.org) email, as well as notifying your child's classroom teachers. Thank you for your partnership in keeping us all healthy at school!**

**Please notify the school if your child is not feeling well. We ask that you keep your child home if she/he has:**

- A fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher) or has had one during the previous 24 hours
- A bad cold with heavy nasal discharge
- A constant cough
- Diarrhea
- Vomited 2 or more times in the past 24 hours
- [Flu-like symptoms](#)
- A communicable illness (e.g., chickenpox, scarlet fever, impetigo, head lice, strep throat, RSV, [COVID-19](#))
- Conjunctivitis (pink eye)
- A noticeable rash (unknown origin)

**Please notify the School immediately if your child has a communicable illness (*see below*) so that other parents may be informed to monitor their children for symptoms.** Returning to school after a communicable illness is dependent on the specific illness, and further information will be provided to families. The following chart can be used as a reference for when your child should be kept out of school. This chart is not meant to be used as a tool for diagnosis, but rather as a guide. In general, children must be fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medication for at least 24 hours, and symptoms must be resolving in order to return. If your child is instructed to take an antibiotic, he or she may return to school after taking the medicine for 24 hours.

### Respiratory Illness

Information about symptoms for COVID-19, the flu and RSV, as well as protecting yourself and others from getting sick, can be found at [www.mass.gov/info-details/protect-yourself-and-others-from-getting-sick](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/protect-yourself-and-others-from-getting-sick). Please test for the [flu](#) or [COVID-19](#) when applicable.

**Our [COVID-19 & GCS](#) Policy can be found on the school website ([www.grotoncommunityschool.org/wellness-at-gcs](http://www.grotoncommunityschool.org/wellness-at-gcs)). Current protocols for symptoms, isolation and exposure are informed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, local boards of health, and our state licensing agency.**

**Families can communicate COVID-19 related information (symptoms, exposure, positive cases in the family or testing results) to the school via our [wellness@grotoncommunityschool.org](mailto:wellness@grotoncommunityschool.org) email.**

<b>CONDITION</b>	<b>EXCLUSION</b>	<b>PREVENTION</b>
<b>Conjunctivitis</b> (Pink eye)	Exclude until 24 hours after treatment begins for purulent conjunctivitis (red or pink conjunctiva with white or yellow discharge).	Make sure hands are clean before treating child's eye and promote good hygiene; wash hands after contact with child's eye or with discharge.
<b>Diarrhea</b>	Exclude when the stool is watery or decreased in form <b>and</b> cannot be contained by diapers or controlled by toilet use, or if stool contains blood or mucus, or if accompanied by a fever.	Good hygiene; wash hands after any contact with stool.
<b>Head Lice</b> (Pediculosis)	Exclude until morning after treatment begins.	Early detection is best and avoid physical contact with infested person and their belongings; always keep belongings of children separated; wash and dry all items that come in contact with infected person.
<b>Impetigo</b>	Exclude for 24 hours after treatment begins.	Good hygiene, air out room daily, clean surfaces and utensils.
<b>Strep Throat</b>	Exclude for 24 hours after treatment begins.	Good hygiene, air out room daily, clean surfaces and utensils.
<b>Vomiting</b>	Exclude if the child has vomited two or more times in the previous 24 hours, unless the vomiting is due to a non-communicable condition and the child is not in danger of dehydration.	Good hygiene.

*Adapted from Health and Safety in Child Care, A Guide for Providers in Massachusetts, MDPH.*

*Revised 6/12/24*