

## **Illness & Exclusion Policy (Includes COVID-19 Updates)**

Although some illnesses do not require exclusion, there are instances where an illness requires a student to be excluded from school to prevent the spread of infection and to allow the child time to rest and recover. When making the decision to send a child home, please understand that we must take into consideration your child's health as well as that of the other children, staff, and faculty. In addition, COVID-19 presents a different set of circumstances for the 2021-2022 school year. All exclusion criteria have been obtained from the most recent guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, The National Association of School Nurses, and most importantly, the NH Department of Health and Human Services. Please remember that as more is understood about COVID-19, or circumstances change within our local community or school itself, our policy may be updated to reflect better guidance of which CCA will make every effort to be forthcoming with these changes. Accommodations for remote learning will be made available to every student experiencing a period of extended absence related to COVID-19. Exclusion from school is mandated by CCA in the following scenario:

**All Faculty, Staff, and Students MUST stay home if exhibiting any \*new or \*unexplained symptoms of COVID-19 infection EVEN IF MILD:**

- Fever of 100 degrees F or higher
- Chills
- Muscle or body aches
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

*\*A person with a history of migraines, allergies, asthma, etc. may not be excluded, only if symptoms are consistent in presentation with documentation of a pre-existing medical condition and correlating typical presenting symptoms on file in the health office. These situations will be addressed on an individual basis with communication between school nurse, parent, and healthcare provider. Medical documentation may be requested by the school nurse to allow for re-admittance to school if another diagnosis is confirmed for an individual.*

**Please see the latest COVID-19 CCA Health Policy Update from the school nurse, in accordance with NH DHHS, CDC, and Department of Education guidance.**

**Temporary exclusion is recommended when the student has any of the following conditions and does not exhibit any of the above COVID-19 symptoms. A licensed healthcare provider may determine the child's condition does not require exclusion and documentation of such should be provided to the health center:**

- Rash: Do not send a child to school with a contagious or questionable rash. He/she will be sent home and a licensed healthcare provider's note will be required for re-admittance.
- Contagious infection requiring an antibiotic: Exclusion to extend for 24 hours after treatment has begun.
- Red, itchy, gooey eyes: If bacterial conjunctivitis, exclusion to extend for 24 hours after treatment has begun.
- Head lice: Exclusion to start at the end of day and extend until treatment has been completed. Please notify the school if you suspect your child has head lice.
- Mononucleosis: Exclusion as per doctor's recommendation
- Norovirus diarrhea and/or vomiting exclusion is required for 24 hours after symptoms resolve without medication; however, a 48 hour exclusion is recommended. A required 48 hour exclusion may be enforced during certain times of the year or if an outbreak occurs.

**These lists are not all-encompassing and may be revised as appropriate.** A licensed healthcare provider's re-admittance slip may be requested at the discretion of the Headmaster or school nurse. In the event of an outbreak of vaccine-preventable disease at Concord Christian Academy, the State Health Director may exclude unimmunized children from the school for his/her own protection. This exclusion will last until an incubation period from the last identified case of the communicable disease has passed as per the NH Religious Exemption form.

The school is required by law to report specific communicable disease, or suspicion of such, to the Public Health Department in accordance with NH Public Health Laws. A complete list with requirements for reporting can be found at:

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/documents/reportablediseases.pdf>

**The health of your child and readiness to learn are greatly intertwined. If your child does not meet any of the above criteria, but in general does not look well, we may ask you to come pick up your child until he/she is able to return to full participation in the classroom.**

If a student is a driver and determined able to safely drive home, the school nurse or non-licensed assistive designee will place a phone call to the parent requesting verbal permission for the student to leave school. No student driver, regardless of age will be allowed to leave school due to illness without permission of the parent.