

Bethany Bridges Club Inc.

Illness Policy

We know that managing the demands of work can be challenging when your child is ill. We strive to limit the spread of communicable disease at Bethany and are committed to implementing policies that balance and respect the needs of children, families, and staff in these circumstances.

We understand that it is difficult for a parent/guardian to leave or miss work; therefore, it is suggested that alternative arrangements be made for occasions when children must remain at home or be picked up due to illness.

Bethany Bridges Club may request you keep your child home, return home or pick up due to (but are not limited to) the following:

- Illness that prevents the child from participating comfortably in program activities, such as going outdoors.
- Illness that results in a greater need for care than our staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of other children.
- Illness that poses a risk of spread of harmful disease to others
- Severely ill appearance
- Fever of 100 or above. No exceptions.
- Fever of 99 and above with another symptom (including but not limited to) coughing, runny nose, lethargy, child is able to tell you they do not feel well.
- Diarrhea: watery stools or decreased form of stool not associated with change of diet; stool not contained in the diaper; child unable to reach the toilet; or stool frequency that exceeds 2 or more stools in a brief time period.
- Blood or mucus in the stools not explained by dietary change, medication, or hard stools.
- Vomiting more than 2 times in the previous 24 or if we have a fear of dehydration.
- Mouth sores with drooling (unless the child's medical provider or local health department authority states that the child is noninfectious).
- Abdominal pain that continues for more than 2 hours
- Rash
- Skin sores weeping fluid and on an exposed area that cannot be covered
- COVID-19: Please see addendum, will require contacting the Health Department
- Purulent conjunctivitis (defined as pink or red conjunctiva with white or yellow eye discharge) until on antibiotics for 24 hours.
- Impetigo until 24 hours after treatment has been started.
- Strep throat (or other streptococcal infection) until 24 hours after treatment has been started.

- Rubella, until 7 days after the rash appears.
- Chickenpox, until all lesions have dried or crusted (usually 6 days after onset of rash).
- Pertussis (whooping cough) until 5 days of antibiotics.
- Mumps, until 5 days after onset of parotid gland swelling.
- Measles, until 4 days after onset of rash.
- Hepatitis A virus until 1 week after onset of illness or jaundice or as directed by the health department (if the child's symptoms are mild).
- Tuberculosis, until the child's medical provider or local health department states the child is on appropriate treatment and can return.
- Any child determined by the local health department to be contributing to the transmission of illness during an outbreak.

For your child's comfort, and to reduce the risk of contagion, we ask that children be picked up within 1 hour of notification. We always require a total of 4 contact numbers on file, updated regularly. If you pick up past the hour, we will charge a \$1/minute late pick up fee.

Until then, your child will be removed from class and kept comfortable in a separate area and will continue to be observed for symptoms. Children need to remain home for 24 hours without symptoms before returning to the program, unless the center receives a note from the child's medical provider stating that the child is not contagious and may return to the center. In the case of a (suspected) contagious disease, rash, or continuing symptoms, a note from the child's medical provider may be required before the child can return. Children who have been excluded may return when:

- They are free of fever, vomiting, and diarrhea for a full 24 hours without any related medication to reduce fever or limit diarrhea and vomiting.
- They can participate comfortably in all usual program activities, including outdoor time.
- They are free of open, oozing skin conditions and drooling (not related to teething) unless
- the child's medical provider signs a note stating that the child's condition is not contagious, and
- the involved areas can be covered by a bandage without seepage or drainage through the bandage. If a child is excluded because of a reportable communicable disease, a note from the child's medical provider stating that the child is no longer contagious and may return is required.

The final decision on whether to exclude a child from the program due to illness will be made by Bethany Bridges Club.

Note: Notes allowing for a child's return to the center after exclusion due to illness must originate from the child's medical provider. A note written and signed by the child's parent/guardian who is also a physician is not acceptable.

Everything we do is for the safety of and in the best interest of the child, our families and staff. We appreciate your understanding.

Thank you