

Illness/Prevention



Ages: Birth to 18 years

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Safety and Security Materials Assembled by
The Baptist Convention of Maryland and Delaware



Childhood Illness and Prevention Policies

Protecting youngsters from germs and illness is not always possible, but it is our responsibility to help children avoid these illnesses as much as possible.

Keeping ill children away from other children is part of that responsibility. A child should remain at home for 24 hours after having a fever, vomiting or diarrhea, sore throat, eye infection or skin rash that has not been treated.

The parent should be contacted and asked to pick up their child if any of the following symptoms occur:

- Armpit or fever-strip temperature of 100 degrees or higher (children younger than 3 months with 100.4 needs to be seen by a doctor)
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Unexplained rash on skin
- Green mucus discharge from nose
- Nits in the hair
- Red eyes with a mucus discharge

If a child contracts a childhood disease following a session in a preschool department, the church should be notified.

Germs are all around us and often infect young children

Universal Precautions

Universal: Universal means taking the right precautions all the time; not taking risks.

Precautions: Precautions means planning for the right equipment to be on hand and having a set of safety rules to follow.

Equipment: Bleach solution of 1/4 cup to 1 gallon of hot water (mix daily), mops, buckets, liquid soap (keep locked up), paper towels, and a foot-peddled trash receptacle with lid.

Childhood Illness and Prevention Policies

Universal Precautions (continued)

Rules:

Hand washing

- When?** Upon Arrival
Before feeding food or giving bottles
Before and after toileting and diapering
After cleaning vomit, spit-up, blood, runny noses, and soiled clothing
- How?** Place hands under warm, running water
Use liquid soap and lather
Create friction by rubbing vigorously between fingers, around and under nails and on the back of hands and around wrist for at least 20 seconds
Rinse hands with warm running water
Dry thoroughly with a paper towel. Use the paper towel to turn off the faucet (original germs are on the faucet)
Place towel in a foot-peddled trash receptacle
- Why?** Viruses are removed when proper hand washing procedures occur.



Cleaning Spills

- What?** Diarrhea, vomit, spit-up, or blood
- How?** Using latex gloves, pour bleach solution around edge of the "spill", clean from the outside to the inside. Disinfect mops, and buckets with bleach solution.

It is our responsibility to help children avoid illnesses as much as possible.

Childhood Illness and Prevention Policies

Universal Precautions (continued)

Rules: (continued)

Reducing Infection Risk for Children and Adults

What? Infection means viruses such as colds or flu; Hepatitis B or HIV spread through blood; bacteria such as strep spread through urine, feces, mucus and saliva.

How? Killing bacteria and viruses with bleach solution
Keeping a bag of latex gloves and wipe-up supplies at hand (in your pocket)

Removing gloves:

Pull from the top downward, leaving the glove inside out.
Place the removed glove in the palm of the other glove.
Pull from the top turning inside out with first glove inside the other glove. Germs stay inside the gloves.

Confidentiality of Medical Information

If information regarding a child who has an immunodeficiency, whatever the cause, is available to the Minister of Childhood Education, the minister will make this information available only to those caregivers who need to know in order to protect the child against other infections. This need to know, however, does not require knowledge of HIV status. Parents of children enrolled in preschool activities shall not be privy to any confidential medical information.


Some Signs and Symptoms in Childhood Illnesses

Chickenpox: Fever, cold symptoms, tiredness, and itchy rash with red, raised blister.

Conjunctivitis or Pink Eye: Redness of eye, swelling of eyelid, mucus drainage from the eye, itching and watering of the eye.

Childhood Illness and Prevention Policies

Some Signs and Symptoms in Childhood Illnesses (continued)

Fifth Disease:	Bright red rash on cheeks, lacy looking rash on arms and trunk.	
Head Lice:	Itching scalp, nits in hair.	
Influenza:	Headache, runny nose, sore throat, cough, loss of appetite, fever, aches, chills, tiredness.	
Impetigo:	Small honey-colored, crusted sores.	
Measles:	Cold, sore throat, dry hacking cough, high fever, red rash beginning on the face and moving down the body.	
Meningitis:	Severe headache, sensitivity to light, stiff neck, nausea and vomiting, lethargy and irritability.	
Mumps:	Swollen glands in back part of cheek, sore throat, swollen lymph nodes, cold symptoms, fever.	
Pinworms:	Intense itching in anal area that may wake child at night.	
Rheumatic Fever:	Arthritis, heart rhythm problems, rash, fever, bizarre motions.	

Childhood Illness and Prevention Policies

Universal Precautions (continued)

Some Signs and Symptoms In Childhood Illnesses (continued)

Scarlet Fever: Sore throat, bright red rash beginning on trunk and spreading over entire body, fever, dry flaky skin, red and swollen tongue.

Sore Throat: Dry, scratchy throat, painful and difficult swallowing.

Tonsillitis: Sore throat, pain in swallowing, drooling in infant, refusing to eat, chills, fever, aches, headache, ear ache, swollen neck glands, bad breath, cough.



Bibliography

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Health Criteria for Children's Ministries

The following list of symptoms will determine if a child should not be admitted to our nurseries and classrooms:



If a child shows signs of any of these symptoms while in our care, the child will be isolated from the others and parent or guardian will be contacted.

In the case of children with allergies who might exhibit some of the above-mentioned symptoms, exceptions will be made.

1. Persistent coughing
2. Persistent sneezing
3. Any discolored nasal discharge
4. Vomiting
5. Inflamed throat
6. Earaches
7. Fever (over 99 degrees; must be fever free for 24 hours)
8. Runny nose and/or eyes
9. Unusual fatigue and irritability
10. Complaints of stomachache
11. Swollen glands
12. Rash (except diaper rash)
13. Diarrhea (two or more loose bowel movements)

Our desire is to protect all children and volunteers from exposure to illness. We appreciate your cooperation in maintaining a healthy ministry environment.