

## Health Standards

Health forms, emergency notification and care forms, permission forms, and copies of immunization records for all students are kept on file in the school office. Parents complete the forms and submit them with a current immunization record and doctor's examination form, signed by a physician or nurse practitioner. Parents should inform the director of any pertinent changes. If parents choose not have their child immunized for religious or medical reasons, parents must inform the school in writing.

Staff members make conscious, continuous efforts to ensure the children's safety and health. By including illness prevention practices in daily routines, parents and teachers together can limit the spread of infection. Parents are immediately notified of any serious injury or sickness of their child. Parents whose children are not ill will be notified of contagious disease exposure.

Children with contagious disorders, skin rash, or fever must not be brought to school. If your child contracts a contagious illness, please inform the director. A child should be kept at home and the director notified if she has:

- a temperature above normal (armpit temperature 100 degrees or greater).  
Children are not to return to school until 24 hours after a fever has ceased.
- an illness preventing her from participating comfortably in school activities.
- an illness resulting in need for greater care than MSF staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of the other children.
- a discharging eye, ear, or mouth.
- a rash with fever or behavior change, until a health care provider determines that symptoms do not indicate a communicable disease.
- symptoms and signs of possible severe illness: such as unusual lethargy, uncontrolled coughing, irritability, persistent crying, difficulty breathing (with or without congestion), wheezing or other unusual signs until medical evaluation allows inclusion and participation in normal daily activities.
- uncontrolled diarrhea: characterized by an increased number of bowel movements compared to the child's normal pattern and with increased stool water. In general, a child will be excluded from MSF if he/she has more than two loose stools in a 24 hour period.
- vomiting: if child has two or more episodes of vomiting within a 12 hour period he/she should be excluded. The child who vomits shall be observed carefully for other signs of illness/dehydration and, if none are present, the child may continue to attend.

For suspected or known infectious illness such as:

- *Purulent conjunctivitis* (pink or red eye with white or yellow discharge): until 24 hours after treatment has been initiated.
- *Scabies, head lice or other infestation*: until after treatment has been initiated and child is nit free.
- *Tuberculosis*: until a health care provider indicates that the child can attend school.\*

- *Impetigo/MRSA*: until 24 hours after treatment has been initiated and all sores are dry or can be kept covered.
- *Chicken pox*: until 6 days after onset of rash or until all sores have dried and crusted.
- *Pertussis*: until 5 days of antibiotic treatment has been completed to prevent an infection.\*
- *Mumps*: until 9 days after onset of parotid gland swelling.\*
- *Strep throat*: until 24 hours after initial antibiotic treatment and cessation of fever.
- *Hepatitis A*: until 1 week after onset of jaundice or immune serum globulin has been given.\*
- *Measles*: until 6 days after onset of rash.\*
- *Rubella*: until 6 days after onset of rash.\*

Exclude student until a doctor has determined the illness to be non-infectious. Written documentation must be provided. Those marked with an \* are reportable to the state. The time of return to school may be determined by the local health department. A complete list of communicable diseases can be obtained from your local health department.

As a general practice, the staff does not administer medication. If a child must receive medication, a permission form for administering medicine may be obtained from the office.

We are required to report any suspected cases of abuse and neglect to the Catawba County Department of Social Services.

Parents are asked to inform the staff of special events or upsetting changes that might affect their child's behavior, such as a birth in the family, parent's or guardian's absence from home, moving, or death of loved ones or pets. This will enable the staff to better meet the needs of each child and be sensitive to any changes in behavior.

Our staff encourages parents to remember the benefits of adequate rest and nourishment and an established routine. A good night's sleep and an unhurried nutritious breakfast enable children to work at their best.

#### Emergency Care Plan

If a child becomes sick or injured while at school, the parent will be notified and is expected to come to the school for the child. Parents are responsible for making certain that the alternate emergency contact is aware of his or her responsibility. In case of an emergency that is life-threatening, potentially brain-damaging, or which involves acute pain, in which case it is most important to treat the child quickly, it is the policy of MSF to use the closest or most appropriate medical facility. In any other instance we will use the doctor and/or hospital preferred by parents.

#### Housekeeping

Toilets, sinks, tables, and floors are cleaned and disinfected daily. Tables are cleaned and disinfected before and after lunch. Equipment and shelves are cleaned monthly, or as needed.