

## Special Beginnings – Student Health Policy

### Illness

In the anticipation of the cold and flu season as well as the current COVID 19 pandemic, we want to work with you to keep the students and staff healthy. The staff will disinfect the classroom each day, wash their hands regularly, and assist students in the hand washing process. However, with so many people coming together, germs are easily exchanged and illnesses can be passed on very quickly.

Please keep your child home if he/she is experiencing any of the following symptoms:

- Fever (temperature 100.4 F / 39.0 C or greater) or chills. Students need to stay home 24 hours after a fever breaks
- Diarrhea
- Rash with fever or behavior changes
- Severe skin eruptions
- Rash/Open Wounds: Actively open wounds require written release from a medical provider, and a bandage worn at all times that cannot be removed by the student.
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Cough
- New loss of taste or smell
- Nasal congestion or runny nose, not caused by allergies or smoke issues
- Sore throat
- Muscle or body aches
- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever
- Unusual fatigue
- Nausea or vomiting
- Poor appetite or feeding

Please contact your student's teacher or the Special Beginnings office if your student is out of school due to illness. The school bus will not transport students who display any of the above symptoms. You will also be called to pick up your child from school if he/she shows any of the above symptoms. This policy is in place to protect the health and safety of all students and staff.

If your child's symptoms are due to an underlying chronic condition (allergies, rashes, etc.) Please provide the school with a doctor's note. The doctor's note need will cover current symptoms your child is experiencing so long as there are not changes in the symptoms. If there are symptom changes (there is a break without the symptom happening or it changes in severity) a new/updated note from your child's doctor will be required.

### Transportation

Please notify the transportation department and your child's teacher when you do not intend to send your child to school due to illness (or any other absence). If your child

misses the bus on 2 consecutive days, bus services will be discontinued until you contact transportation to request services to be reinstated. To reinstate services, please contact transportation the day before services are to be resumed. Transportation: 707-445-7089.

If you have a medical question or concern, we first recommend you call your doctor. If you are not sure about sending your child to school, you may call Special Beginnings at 707-445-7043 or the HCOE School Nurses Office at 707-445-7051 and someone will assist you.

## Head Lice

Head lice have become more and more of a problem over the last few years. The number of children infested with head lice is increasing all across the country. Control of head lice depends on prompt diagnosis and effective treatment. We take many measures to reduce risk of head lice spreading to other students. Your help in inspecting your child at least weekly throughout the school year for the presence of head lice would be greatly appreciated.

Please note that Special Beginnings has a “no live lice” policy. All lice must be removed prior to sending your student back to school. A student with visible live lice will be sent home at the end of the day with information for parents. Parents should examine the student and treat overnight. The following day, the student will be admitted to class, but parents will be re-contacted if live lice are still seen. Parents may visit this website for more information: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/HeadLice.aspx>

Thank you for your cooperation regarding these matters. Our goal is to keep students and staff as healthy as possible.