



# ACORN CHRISTIAN MONTESSORI SCHOOL

## CHILDREN FIRST, ALWAYS

### HEALTH AND ILLNESS POLICY

Acorn staff maintain the highest standards of cleanliness and sanitation. Teachers clean and sanitize toys, eating surfaces, and toileting and diapering areas regularly and according to licensing standards. Teachers and children follow proper and frequent hand washing procedures.

Please arrange for a back-up person to care for your child when your child is sick. Staff will conduct a daily health check upon arrival and will not admit a child if symptoms of illness are present.

We ask that families not give fever reducing or pain medication to their child in the morning before bringing them. Generally, the medicine wears off and the child becomes uncomfortable during the day. This also may put other children and staff at risk for getting sick.

Please do not bring your child if he or she has any of the following symptoms. When symptoms appear while your child is in our program, parents must pick up their child within one hour of notification. We may temporarily separate your child from other children to avoid the spread of a contagious illness.

**Rash:** We will exclude your child with any unexplained rash, especially if there are open sores. A child may return when symptom free or there is a physician's statement that the condition is not contagious.

**Eye discharge (or pink eye):** Your child may return 24 hours after first antibacterial treatment has begun.

**Head lice, scabies or other infestations:** Your child may return 24 hours after treatment has begun. A physician's statement may be required to return. In case of head lice, your child must be nitfree before returning.

**Strep throat:** Your child may return 24 hours after antibiotic treatment has begun.

**Chicken pox:** Your child may return after being fever free for 24 hours without the aid of medication and all sores have dried up and healed over.

**Impetigo:** Your child may return 24 hours after treatment has begun.

**Hand, foot and mouth:** Your child may return after being fever free for 24 hours without the aid of medication and all sores have dried up and healed over.

### **COVID-19 Symptoms based on CDC Guidelines:**

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19.

- Fever (100.4 or higher) or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches



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- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore Throat
- Congestion or excessive runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea (loose or runny stool)

### PROCEDURES FOR COVID-19 SYMPTOMS OR A POSITIVE TEST

Parents must notify the front office if a child tests positive for COVID-19. Administration will notify the Yavapai County Health Department if there is a positive test, and a notification will go out to all families. If a person becomes sick with COVID-19 symptoms or reports a positive COVID-19 test, these procedures will be followed:

1. Children with a positive test or direct exposure to a person with a positive COVID test will not be allowed into the school until it has been at least 10 days since symptoms appeared, at least 24 hours without fever or fever-reducing medication, and other symptoms have improved.
2. Children with COVID-19 symptoms may not return for 72 hours symptom-free, or 24 hours fever-free WITH a negative COVID test.
3. If a child develops COVID-19 symptoms at school, the child will also be placed in the isolation area and be given a mask to wear until picked up. Parents will immediately be notified to pick up the child and staff will call 911 if the child appears to be in medical distress.
4. Teachers will then close off any areas that were used by the symptomatic child for a prolonged period. If feasible, windows and/or outside doors will be open to increase air circulation. After 24 hours, staff will thoroughly clean and disinfect all surfaces in the area, in accordance with CDC guidelines.
5. Staff will determine whether other employees or students may have been within 6 feet of the infected person for at least 15 minutes. An infected person can spread COVID-19 starting 48 hours before the person had any symptoms or tested positive for COVID-19. Staff will send out notifications of the potential exposure. Notification will recommend that exposed individuals monitor their health closely, contact their health care provider, pursue COVID testing and self-quarantine if any symptoms develop.
6. If a child has siblings in the center, the sibling will follow the same protocol.
7. If a positive case of COVID-19 is reported in a student or staff member at Acorn Montessori School, we may close for 72 hours to follow the County Health and CDC guidelines for disinfecting and cleaning following a positive result. Should an outbreak occur, we may follow the county requirement which may include a 14-day closure.

Because each scenario is different, when COVID-19 related symptoms present, each case will be considered individually. Acorn administration makes the final decision whether or not to exclude a child. We exercise the right to exclude a child despite a physician's statement, if that statement contradicts school policies. Acorn will post any communicable diseases and each classroom affected on the door to the classroom and kept in a binder in the front office.