



# SCHOOL FOR LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT

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[WWW.SLCD.ORG](http://WWW.SLCD.ORG)

Dear Parents,

December 2011

As the calendar indicates winter will soon be upon us, and we thought that a reminder of State and School Policy regarding illness would be helpful. At some time during the school year your child will inevitably come down with an illness and this letter is to inform you how to deal with such a situation while your child is enrolled at SLCD. Remember that our policies are intended to serve as guidelines to promote and maintain the health and welfare of all students, teachers and auxiliary staff here at SLCD.

One of the most annoying health problems to plague students, parents and school personnel is none other than the common cold and, in fact, is the reason for the majority of student absences over the school year. With this in mind, please consider the following when deciding if your child is well enough to attend school.

Whether or not the symptoms indicate a common cold or a contagious illness, (many contagious illnesses begin with a cold), the child is better off at home, not only for the sake of other children, but for the child's own sake. Your child will fight off the illness better if he or she is at rest and protected from changes in the temperature. Children cannot do their best if they are ill.

When your child has any of the symptoms outlined below, we ask that you keep your child at home. **If your child develops these symptoms while in school we will call and ask you to pick up your child.**

1. fever-above 100 degrees (must be fever-free 24 hours without Tylenol/Motrin before returning to school)
2. severe coughing
3. excessive discolored drainage from nose
4. drainage from the eyes
5. unusual spots/ rashes/infected skin patches
6. diarrhea/vomiting

**Again, for your child's well-being, and as a means of safeguarding all of our students and staff, please keep your child home if any of these symptoms are present.** When in doubt, the safest bet is to keep your child at home. Your own physician is the best person to consult concerning your child's general health. If your child is going to be absent, please notify the school by 8:30 AM and state the reason for the absence. **Also, please alert the health office as soon as possible when your child is diagnosed with a contagious illness so that we may immediately alert the staff and students' families.**

The New York State Education Department mandates verification for all absences. Upon returning to school after an absence, please send in an absence note. In addition, we must have a **doctor's note** if your child has been absent 5 or more consecutive days and/or due to a contagious illness, including strep throat, conjunctivitis, ringworm, lice, scabies, impetigo, etc. These contagious illnesses require documentation of medical intervention **before your child can return to school.**

Another important issue to review is our policy on **food allergies.** Most of you should have received this information in your new student packet and we will continue to send it on a yearly basis. In an attempt to ensure a safe environment for our students who have nut/peanut allergies we will strictly enforce the following:

- do not send in any nut/peanut products
- staff are advised of which students are allergic
- allergic students can only eat what is sent in from home
- no sharing of food
- for classroom birthday parties the allergic student must supply his own snack
- for school sponsored celebrations we will supply snacks free of any nut/peanut ingredients

Remember that these rules are for the safety and well-being of all the children as well as the teachers and other workers who are with your children on a daily basis. Feel free to call the health office if you have any questions or concerns or if we may be of assistance to you regarding your child. Thank you for your cooperation and best wishes for a healthy winter season.

Sincerely,

Phyllis Imbriano RN  
School Nurse-Glen Cove-ext 145

Leslie Pitts RN  
School Nurse-Woodside-ext 402

Lori Weiss RN  
School Nurse-Richmond Hill-ext 602