

Illness & Exclusion Policy

YMCA of Greater Westfield Preschool

2026–2027 School Year

The health and well-being of our children, families, and staff is our top priority. To help prevent the spread of illness, children who are sick or have certain contagious conditions must remain home until they meet the return-to-school guidelines below.

If your child becomes ill while at preschool, you will be contacted and expected to pick them up as soon as possible.

Please remember that children should be **fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication** before returning to preschool.

Illness/Condition	When Your Child May Return to Preschool
Chickenpox	Five (5) days after the rash appears, or when all blisters have dried and crusted over, whichever is later.
Diarrhea	After being symptom-free for 24 hours. Children with frequent, loose stools that cannot be contained by a diaper or toilet should remain home.
Fever	After being fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.
Head Lice	Twenty-four (24) hours after appropriate treatment has begun.
Hepatitis A	One (1) week after the onset of illness and when jaundice has resolved (if present), or as directed by the local health department.
Impetigo	Twenty-four (24) hours after treatment has begun.
Measles	Four (4) days after the rash appears.
Mouth Sores	If your child is unable to control saliva, they must remain home unless a physician or local health department determines they are not contagious.
Mumps	Nine (9) days after swelling of the glands begins.
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	After completing five (5) full days of appropriate antibiotic treatment.
Pinworms	Twenty-four (24) hours after treatment has begun.
Pink Eye (Conjunctivitis)	Forty-eight (48) hours after treatment begins and symptoms are improving. Symptoms may include red or pink eyes, eye drainage, matted eyelids, or redness around the eye.
Rash	If accompanied by a fever or changes in behavior, your child must remain home until a healthcare provider determines the illness is not contagious.
Ringworm	After treatment has begun.
Rubella (German Measles)	Seven (7) days after the rash appears.
Scabies	After treatment has been completed.
Strep Throat	Forty-eight (48) hours after antibiotic treatment has begun and your child has been fever-free for 24 hours without medication.
Tuberculosis	When a physician or local health department confirms your child is no longer contagious.
Vomiting	Twenty-four (24) hours after the last episode of vomiting.

Thank You for Helping Keep Our Preschool Healthy

We appreciate your partnership in helping us maintain a healthy learning environment for all children. If you are ever unsure whether your child should attend preschool, please keep them home and contact us. We are happy to discuss your child's symptoms and help determine when it is appropriate for them to return.

Please note: These guidelines are based on recommendations from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) and public health guidance. The YMCA reserves the right to request a healthcare provider's note when necessary to ensure the health and safety of all children and staff.