



# *The Dominican*

## COMMUNITY *of* SCHOOLS

### **St. Agnes Academy-St. Dominic School Health Plan**

Please help us decrease the spread of illness at school by keeping children home when they are sick. Illnesses such as the common cold, strep throat, flu, COVID, pink eye, lice, hand-foot & mouth, and stomach bug all spread through contact with an infected person.

If your child is absent due to illness, please contact the administrative assistant associated with your child's school division, your homeroom teacher, and the school nurse.

If your child is going to check-in late or be absent for any other reason, please notify their teacher and the administrative assistant for your child's division.

See contact information below:

- NURSE - Nina Gardner ([ngardner@saa-sds.org](mailto:ngardner@saa-sds.org))
- ECC - Renee Pirkey ([rpirkey@saa-sds.org](mailto:rpirkey@saa-sds.org))
- SAA LS - Tammy Brooks ([tbrooks@saa-sds.org](mailto:tbrooks@saa-sds.org))
- SDS - Diane Pirozzi ([dmpirozzi@saa-sds.org](mailto:dmpirozzi@saa-sds.org))
- SAA-SDS JH - Tammy Brooks ([tbrooks@saa-sds.org](mailto:tbrooks@saa-sds.org))
- US - Renata Novarese ([rnovarese@saa-sds.org](mailto:rnovarese@saa-sds.org))

### **Know When to Stay Home - Please follow these guidelines in case of illness:**

- Nausea/Vomiting/Diarrhea (N/V/D)  
Your child must be N/V/D-free for 24 hours before returning. If your child has N/V/D while at school, he/she will be sent home and cannot return the next day. The 24-hour clock starts with the last instance of N/V/D.

- Fever (100.4 or greater)

Your child must be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications. If using these medications (Advil, Tylenol etc.), the 24-hour clock begins after the last dose of Advil/Tylenol has worn off (4-6 hours after dose is given).

- Hand Foot & Mouth Disease

Children are usually fussy and won't eat or drink well with HF&M, so keep them at home until symptoms improve and blisters are dry.

- Lice

Your child needs to be lice and nit (egg) free before returning to school and *must* be checked by the school nurse prior to returning to the classroom. It is your responsibility to notify individuals. There are multiple approaches to eliminate lice—prescription shampoo, over-the-counter shampoo, Robi Comb, Lice Doctors, Lice Clinic.

In the event that a student or staff member is diagnosed with head lice, it is important to take responsible steps to prevent further spread. Anyone who has knowingly shared personal items that come into contact with the scalp—such as hair brushes, combs, hats, or pillowcases—should be notified promptly.

- Respiratory Illnesses

Whether viral or bacterial, respiratory illnesses such as the common cold, flu, sinus infection, and strep throat, spread by airborne droplets from talking, sneezing, coughing etc. Please keep your child at home if they are exhibiting these symptoms and take them to the pediatrician for treatment when necessary. Antibiotic use for 24 hours for strep throat is required to return to campus.

- COVID

COVID-19 will be managed in the same manner as the common cold. Students and faculty may return to school/work when:

1. Symptoms are improving, **and**
2. They have been fever-free for at least **24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.**

This approach ensures consistency with other common respiratory illnesses while maintaining the health and safety of our school community.

- Pink Eye

If your child wakes up with their eyelashes crusty and the white areas of their eyes are pink/red and appear glassy or watery, they likely have pink eye.

Antibacterial eye drops are needed if the source is bacterial. After 24 hours using the eyedrops, your child may return to school.

- **Strep Throat**

Your child may return to school once they have had 2 doses of a course of an appropriate antibiotic taken 12 hours apart and they are without fever and symptoms are improving.

### **Presenting Symptoms While at School**

Should a student or staff present symptoms while at school, they will be evaluated by our school nurse and an appropriate course of action will be determined. The school nurse will contact the legal guardian regarding steps taken and make a determination whether the student or staff needs to leave campus.

Please be sure that you have updated parent contact numbers as well as approved persons to pick up your child in case of illness or emergency. Depending on the severity of the illness or injury, the nurse will contact an emergency contact person for the child if unable to reach the child's parent/guardian. A parent or guardian is expected to pick up your child within one hour of notification by the school nurse.

St. Agnes Academy and St. Dominic School will continue to support students with acute or chronic health conditions. Short-term absences will be handled on a case-by-case basis with the parent in touch with school officials. Long-term absences will be considered if criteria are appropriate for medical leave or other potential medical accommodations.

We do our best to honor all physician orders; however, there may be situations and/or circumstances that prevent the school from being able to do so. In these circumstances we will notify you so that alternate arrangements can be made.

### **Health Forms**

The school requires forms be on file to provide care for certain medical conditions. Please note the following:

- If your child requires an inhaler: [Asthma Action Plan](#)
- If your child requires and EpiPen: [EpiPen Care Plan](#)
- Over the counter medication needed: [Over the Counter Medication Authorization](#)
- Prescription medication needed: [Prescription Medication Authorization Form](#)

### **Immunizations**

All students are required to be fully vaccinated as per the Tennessee Department of Health Immunization Guidelines, and must be on a Tennessee Certificate of

Immunization form signed (in two places) by a pediatrician. This form must be turned in annually through Kindergarten, again in 7th Grade and at any time your child receives a vaccine. The school does not accept religious exemptions.

**Peanut Policy**

Peanuts are prohibited on campus

*\*This is a working document, and all information is subject to change.*

*Updated August 18, 2025*