

*NOTE: The following is a suggested guide for developing a Church Wellness Policy. Feel free to edit as fits the needs of your specific church. This document was originally crafted for and adopted by Fincastle Baptist Church, Fincastle, Virginia for use in its Children's Ministry.*

## Wellness Policy

In order to try to protect individuals from infectious diseases, \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church follows the following guidelines.

As representatives of Christ, we commit ourselves to obey Jesus' command to love all persons and welcome all persons into the church. However, we also need to take reasonable care not to jeopardize the health of others.

### **Definition**

A communicable disease will be defined as an illness, a departure from health; a particular destructive process in an organism, with a specific cause and characteristic symptoms that may be transmitted to others with the threat of jeopardy to their health. This may range from a common cold to the HIV/AIDS virus.

### **Policy and Procedure**

No child will be allowed into the nursery or other children's program when he or she has any of the following symptoms:

- Acute cold
- Fever
- Sneezing
- Coughing
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Sore throat
- Earache
- Runny nose
- Red or discharging eyes
- Skin rash
- Chills

In addition, anyone who has a known communicable disease won't be admitted into activities, programs, or child care where the disease could be communicated to others who aren't infected.

If a child is admitted to the nursery or children's programs and is later determined to be ill, the parent will be notified to take the child out of the nursery or children's program until the child is well.

If an individual suspects that a child has an infectious disease, or if it comes to the attention of another individual, the informed person should bring this information to the Associate Pastor of Children and Education or the Nursery Coordinator in a confidential manner.

Parents of all children who attend the services will be asked to keep their children at home if they have any contagious illness.

### **Control Methods**

The church nurseries will follow these precautions in order to keep workers and children as safe as possible from any unknown infection:

1. Junior workers (under age 18) will not change diapers under any circumstances.
2. Only adult workers will change diapers. The worker should use a new pair of gloves for each changing.
3. Unless the medical community finds evidence that a diaper needs to be disposed of in any other manner, used diapers should be placed in bags provided in the trash can and taken to the trash dumpster at the end of the shift.
4. Nursery toys should be disinfected at the end of each shift. Toys should also be disinfected sooner if mouthed. In addition, all surfaces should be wiped down and disinfected at the end of each shift.
5. Nursery workers should also practice frequent handwashing, especially when they arrive at the nursery, before serving food, and after diapering a child, wiping his nose, or cleaning up a mess. Be sure to use soap and running water, rub your hands vigorously as you wash them, wash all skin surfaces including wrists and between fingers, rinse hands well, and dry your hands with a single use towel.