



Sick Child Policy for Church Activities

Purpose

The African Methodist Episcopal Church is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and nurturing environment for all children and youth who participate in our ministries. We believe that children who are ill are best cared for at home, where they can rest comfortably and recover. We also believe we have a shared responsibility to safeguard the health of others and prevent the spread of contagious illnesses.

General Expectation

Parents, guardians, and caregivers must not bring a child or youth to any church activity if they are sick, knowingly contagious, or unable to participate fully in normal activities. This applies to Church School, YPD, Nursery, Choir Rehearsal, Youth Ministry Events, Retreats, and any gathering where children or youth are present.

Symptoms That Require a Child to Stay Home

A child must not attend any church activity if they exhibit fever of 100°F or higher, persistent or worsening cough, vomiting or diarrhea, unexplained rash, contagious conditions such as flu or strep, eye or ear discharge, or any illness that limits participation.

When a Child Becomes Ill During a Church Activity

If a child becomes ill during an activity, they will be safely separated, a parent/guardian will be contacted immediately, and the child must leave promptly.

Return-to-Activity Requirements

A child may return when they have been symptom-free for 24 hours without medication, cleared by a healthcare professional if needed, or on antibiotics for at least 24 hours for applicable conditions.

Special Notes for Chronic or Non-Contagious Conditions

Parents should inform leaders of chronic conditions that mimic illness symptoms and provide documentation or action plans.

Expectations of Parents and Guardians

Parents must follow the policy, pick up children promptly if called, notify leaders of contagious illness, and ensure safe participation.

Expectations of Ministry Leaders and Volunteers

Leaders must enforce the policy, monitor symptoms, maintain confidentiality, document incidents, and follow sanitation protocols.



8th District Sample Policies for Local Churches



Statement of Shared Responsibility

We commit as a community of faith to protect the health of all children and youth and work together to maintain a safe environment.