



## Return to School After Illness

New York State is requiring schools to be extra cautious this year in order to protect others as much as possible. Any student or staff with new symptoms that are consistent with COVID-19 infection should be sent home from school.

New symptoms means symptoms that are not consistent with the pattern of a previously known chronic medical condition.

Example 1: A child with a known migraine disorder presents with a headache that is consistent with their normal migraine pattern. This child does not need to be sent home from school. The key is new symptoms that are not in line with a previous known medical disorder.

Example 2: A child with a known asthma disorder presents with increased shortness of breath and congestion that is not their normal asthma pattern. This child should be sent home from school and follow the return to school procedures.

COVID-19 symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

1. Fever or chills (fever is considered 100.0°F or higher)
2. Cough
3. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
4. Fatigue
5. Muscle or body aches
6. Headache
7. New loss of taste or smell
8. Sore throat
9. Congestion or runny nose
10. Nausea or vomiting
11. Diarrhea

**If child/staff is having any of the following symptoms, 911 should be immediately called:**

- a. Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath.
- b. Persistent pain or pressure in the chest.
- c. New confusion or inability to arouse.
- d. Or bluish lips or face.



## **Return to School**

In order for a child/staff to return to school they must be fully recovered and meet all the following protocol:

1. Medical practitioner note clearing child/staff to return to school.
2. It has been at least 10 days since symptoms began.
3. It has been at least three days since child/staff has had a fever without taking fever reducing medication (Tylenol, acetaminophen, ibuprofen, Motrin, aspirin, ext.).
4. It has been at least three days since symptoms have improved (shortness of breath, cough, ext.).

If the child/staff is diagnosed with a medical condition other than COVID-19 the following conditions must be met in order to return to school:

1. Medical practitioner note clearing student/staff to return to school along with the diagnosis clearing them of COVID-19.
2. Fever free and feeling well for at least 24 hours without taking fever reducing medication (Tylenol, acetaminophen, ibuprofen, Motrin, aspirin, ext.)

## **COVID-19 Testing:**

The school should not have mandatory requirements about COVID-19 testing. It should be the medical practitioner's prerogative on when to perform COVID-19 testing and how to use the results.