

## North Shore Pediatrics Covid-19 Return to School/Activities Policies

Hello NSP families,

We understand this is a very difficult time for many trying to navigate school and activities with concerns for Coronavirus. As kids return to school we do expect an increase in illnesses that are typical in children at this time of year. However, we still have to be very careful having children return to school or play.

The following are recommendations from **Boston Children's Hospital** which we will follow:

**If the child has any of the symptoms listed below they will likely need a negative COVID test before returning to school. The alternative is to remain at home in self-isolation for 10 days from symptoms onset.**

- Fever (100.0 F or higher) chills, or shaking chills
- Cough (not due to other known cause such as chronic cough)
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath.
- New Loss of taste or smell
- Sore Throat
- \*\*Headache - *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea (3 or more loose stools in 24 hours)
- Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms

\*\*Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes such as allergies) *when in combination with other symptoms*

**If there is high suspicion for COVID such as loss of taste and smell or fever and cough - recommendation is to isolate for 10 days from onset regardless of results.**

**Even with a negative COVID test – a child should not return to school until symptoms are improved.**

### **Additional Notes:**

- **We cannot go against school policies.**
- **REGARDING SIBLINGS/FAMILY MEMBERS** - If a patient is being tested for COVID, their siblings and parents should remain home until results are in.
- We **cannot** write a letter to “clear” a child to return to school or daycare. We **can** state the facts of their visit or their test results.
- We can order a Covid test for Lahey Urgent Care - results are coming back in 2-3 days. You can also get rapid testing at many sites listed [here on Mass.gov website](#). We cannot guarantee insurance will cover rapid testing although there are many **“Stop the Spread”** testing sites that are guaranteed to be covered.

REMINDER - IF A CHILD HAS HAD A CLOSE CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID THEY MUST QUARANTINE FOR 14 DAYS FROM LAST EXPOSURE. **A NEGATIVE COVID TEST DOES NOT SUPERCEDE THAT RECOMMENDATION.**