

# ***Newton Public Schools***

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***[www.newtonnj.org](http://www.newtonnj.org)***

*Dr. G. Kennedy Greene*  
*Superintendent*

*Mr. James R. Sekelsky*  
*Business Administrator*

*Your school nurses would like to welcome your children  
back to school with a few reminders!*

**WEAR your face covering! WASH your hands! WATCH your distance!**

Our region is currently at a high risk level for COVID-19, and there are increased measures school nurses need to take to keep our students and staff safe and healthy.

- At this time we must treat symptomatic students and staff as “suspected cases”. Close contacts of suspected cases, including siblings, need to quarantine for 14 days or until the suspected case receives a negative test result. There is no option for a doctor's note with alternate diagnosis: either the symptomatic person gets a negative COVID-19 test, or remains out for 10 days from symptom onset. If the suspected case chooses not to get a COVID-19 test, then their close contacts including siblings will have to complete the 14 day quarantine.
- For school settings, NJ Department of Health (NJDOH) recommends that students and staff with the following symptoms be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school:
  - At least two of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, runny nose or;
  - At least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder.
- Students with any of the above symptoms should stay home and families should complete the Google absence form on the respective school's webpage where the child attends school. This is critical information for the school nurses to keep everyone SAFE and HEALTHY!
- Students and staff should stay home if anyone in the household is being tested for COVID-19 due to illness until a negative test result is received. Please forward your test results to your school nurse.
- Staff members and students should notify the school nurse if they become sick with COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 symptoms or a confirmed or suspected case.

As per NJDOH, New Jersey continues to experience COVID-19 illness entering schools. Signs and symptoms are often mild in children, and it may not be possible to clinically distinguish COVID-19 from other illnesses. For this reason, NJDOH recommends that any child with COVID-19 compatible symptoms should not return to school until they have either received a negative viral test (molecular or

antigen) for SARS-CoV-2 or they have completed an isolation period of at least 10 days since symptom onset and at least 24 hours after resolution of fever without fever-reducing medications with symptom improvement. A purely clinical alternative diagnosis is no longer acceptable.

Students who become ill while in school will be assessed by the school nurse and will be determined if it is necessary to place the student in a monitored isolation room.

- All ill students will be sent home, and parents are to pick up their child within 30 minutes of being called.
- If a student presents with symptoms in school, please be aware that we will need to send the siblings of the student exhibiting symptoms home.

Several other items to remember:

- Your child is to wear a face covering throughout the school day that
  - Fully covers the nose and mouth and is secured under the chin;
  - Fits snugly but comfortably against the side of the face;
  - Is secured with ties or ear loops; and
  - Allows breathing without restriction while wearing it.
- If you have traveled outside of the state it is strongly recommended that your child stay home for 10 days and quarantine regardless if they show symptoms or not.
- When calling your child out sick please use the Google absence form, which can be found on each of the school's webpages. It is important for the school nurses to have this information and to follow up with all symptom-based absences.
- If you cannot use the Google absence form and you need to call the school, please be clear in your reason for your child's absence. For example, general terms like "sick", "ill" or "out" are less helpful than specific symptoms like "headache", "cough" or "sore throat".
- If for some reason you forget to call or use the absence form when your child is out of school, please contact the school nurse to discuss the reason for the absence prior to returning to school.

Sincerely,

Carol Marinaro RN, Halsted Middle School  
Michelle Kinney RN, Merriam Avenue School  
Jill Aquino RN, Newton High School  
Gina Kithcart RN, Preschool Program at Camp Auxilium