

November 23, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians

With the rise of illnesses taking place as we enter the winter months, I would like to clarify a few important protocols.

There seems to be a misunderstanding that as long as children have a negative COVID test they may return to school despite lingering symptoms. This is NOT the case.

- If your child has a significant lingering cough or runny nose, please keep them home until their symptoms are resolving.
- If your child has a fever or has been vomiting or has diarrhea, they **MUST** be kept home for 24 hours after they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications and 24 hours after the last bout of vomiting or diarrhea. **This has ALWAYS been our policy and it is clearly written on many of the pediatricians return to school notes.**

In addition, a negative **RAPID** COVID test is ONLY acceptable **WITH** a doctor's note clearing them to return to school. Without a doctor's note, they **MUST** have a COVID PCR.

I ask you to be mindful of the fact that we have some medically fragile children in the school and although these colds, viruses and stomach viruses and even COVID may be unpleasant for your child, for some children it will result in their hospitalization. In addition, we also have parents and other adults in our school community who are immunocompromised.

This is a very challenging time for all of us but with your cooperation we can and will get through this. This is for the health and safety of ALL.

Thank you for your understanding. I wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Pisciotto

School Nurse