

BRIELLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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From the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) Testing of ILL children SUSPECTED of having COVID-19 prior to return to school

We want to take this opportunity to update the Brielle Elementary school community about the NJDOH updated guidance for return to school of the ILL children SUSPECTED of having COVID-19. As of January 1, 2021, due to the ongoing state-wide **second wave** of COVID-19, New Jersey continues to experience COVID-19 transmission among school-aged children. In children, signs/symptoms are often mild, 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. **NEGATIVE COVID TEST MUST BE THE PCR TEST. A RAPID TEST ALONE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.****

****A purely clinical alternative diagnosis is no longer acceptable.**

****Reminder: If a student is symptomatic and is staying home from school while a COVID-19 test is pending, SIBLINGS will be asked to stay home as well until a test result is received. If the symptomatic student tests positive, they will all need to self-quarantine for 14 days.**

COVID-19 compatible symptoms:

- **At least two** of the following symptoms: chills, rigors

(shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting,

diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose; OR

- **At least one** of the following symptoms: fever (measured or subjective), cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder.

- ☐ Our COVID-19 Physician Re-Entry Form has been updated:

<https://www.brielleschool.org/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=1594&dataid=10865&FileName=covid%20return%20to%20school%20form%201.8.21.pdf>

****Link with form must be returned, along with a copy of your Child's COVID-19 Test results.**

- ☐ Please visit the link below for testing sites in your area:

NJ testing sites: <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/testing#test-sites>

We appreciate our community's support and cooperation, and thank you for helping keep our school and students safe. Should you have any questions please contact the school nurse Kereth Looney, at 732-528-6400 ext 3, or klooney@brielleschool.org.