

January 14, 2021

Dear Gateway Families & Staff,

On January 12, 2021, you received a letter from Gateway and an attachment from the NJ Department of Health, outlining the guidelines for exclusion from school and return to school, when someone has possible COVID-19 symptoms.

The DOH has since issued an update (dated January 8, 2021) to clarify some questions.

The clarification is as follows:

*“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 would no longer be accepted.*

*To further clarify, students with COVID-19 compatible symptoms are defined in NJDOH K-12 school guidance using CSTE/CDC case criteria definition as those who have:*

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

*COVID-19 testing is not required for students who do not meet either of the above criteria to return to school. Additionally, for students with chronic illness, only new symptoms, or symptoms worse than baseline should be used to fulfil these criteria.”*

We know this is an ever-changing situation and we are constantly evaluating all the information and guidelines provided to us by government agencies.

As always, if we can answer any questions, please feel free to call the school to speak to administration or the nurse. Our main goal is always for the safety of our students and staff.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Christopher Hoye, Ed.D/Principal

