



Recommendations for Return to School or Daycare for Children attending Respiratory Medicine Clinics

Sept 10, 2020

The BCCH Respiratory Medicine team recommends that our patients **should follow the general public's BC CDC guidelines for return to school and/or daycare**, which all BC schools and daycares should be adopting. Information can be found at:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/childcare-schools#Schools>

Additional information for children with chronic lung disease:

- All children attending school should complete a daily self-assessment (done by parents in most cases) for symptoms of possible COVID-19. If your child has respiratory symptoms at baseline (eg. Daily wet cough, fast breathing, shortness of breath with exercise), only an increase in their usual respiratory symptoms would be considered a positive COVID-19 screen.
- You should be prepared that since symptoms of many respiratory illnesses can be similar to some of the symptoms of COVID-19, your child may need to either self-isolate or have COVID-19 testing done (and not return to school until results obtained) at different points throughout the school year. While this is unfortunate and disruptive, it will be necessary in these situations since you/we cannot guarantee that a new cough, for example, is not due to the novel coronavirus. In these situations please contact the respiratory medicine nurse to determine the safest course of action for your child.
- Children with chronic respiratory conditions are not considered immunocompromised
- Regarding the issue of wearing masks at school or daycare: again, children should follow the general guidelines and are **NOT** required to wear a mask at school simply because they have an underlying respiratory disease
- We continue to follow national and international data on children with chronic respiratory diseases who acquire COVID-19 and to date, there is no evidence that the novel coronavirus has a significant impact on lung disease in children with cystic fibrosis, asthma, primary ciliary dyskinesia or even rare lung diseases
- We recognize that planning a return to school for your child may be stressful for you and/or them, and encourage you to reach out to your clinic should you have specific questions or concerns.

604-875-2623/Toll Free 1-888-300-3088

Respiratory Medicine Nurses Office: Extension 7005

Asthma Nurses Office: Extension ext 7461

Home Tracheostomy and Ventilation Nurses Office: Extension 3546

Cystic Fibrosis Nurses Office: Extension 7005 (patients 2-18yo), Extension 2623 (patients 0-2yo)