



*Serving With Pride The
Township of Manalapan
and the
Borough of Englishtown*

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What should I expect for my children if one of them gets sick?

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Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

We have sent out a lot of information lately regarding the symptoms of COVID-19 and how to work together to screen all students for possible symptoms and exposure to the virus. Today, we are writing to encourage you to consider obtaining documentation from your physician regarding alternate medical explanations for symptoms that may mimic those of COVID-19.

For example, symptoms of seasonal allergies often include headaches, sore throat and a runny nose, which are similar to symptoms of COVID-19. If this is the case for your child, or your child has a similar medical situation, please present a doctor's note to the school nurse indicating the medical condition and associated symptoms to avoid your child being medically isolated and sent home from school unnecessarily.

This option is especially important in light of new information we just received from the State via the Manalapan Health Department. Moving forward, if one of your children is suspected of having [COVID-19](#) (for example, the child has a headache, sore throat and no medical note documenting an alternate medical condition), that child will be sent home, and it will be assumed that your other children have had "close contact" with the ill child. All of them will then be excluded from our district schools.

The ill child will be required to isolate and all of your children will be required to self-quarantine for 14 days from the last contact with the ill child, unless you provide:

- a doctor's note indicating that the ill child's symptoms are due to an alternate medical condition, not COVID-19, or
- the ill child has a negative COVID-19 test.

Please note that the 14 day quarantine for siblings will be extended every day they are exposed to the ill child. While this initially sounds severe, all siblings of an ill child who have not been isolated from that child are, by definition, in "close contact" with each other.

We understand the implications this new State guidance may have on your families and the education of your children. Therefore, please take the time to obtain the aforementioned letters from you physicians in order to avoid any unnecessary exclusion of your children from school. Furthermore, COVID-19 guidance does not negate MERS Policy 8451 - Control of Communicable Disease.

As always, we appreciate your cooperation in keeping our MERS community safe and healthy!

Sincerely,

John J. Marciante, Jr., Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Kimberly DiMarco

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Supervisor of Special Project