

# Canaan Schools

Dear Canaan School Families,

As typical with any other school year we are starting to have staff and students with symptoms of illnesses. What is not typical however, is that other illnesses that are circulating may have similar symptoms to COVID 19, due to this when staff and students can return after an illness is very different.

I want to commend families for following our protocols, by keeping their children home with symptoms. As a reminder students and staff can not attend school with any of the following symptoms: fever (greater than 100.4), shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose, lack of smell/taste, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, muscle aches, and or headache. In addition to this, attendance is restricted if you have been exposed to someone with COVID 19 and or travelled in the last 14 days to a quarantine restricted area.

With all absences due to illness, I will contact families to discuss the next steps required before returning to school. The algorithm that we must follow was developed by VCHIP (Vermont Child Health Improvement Program) at The University of Vermont Children's Hospital, by a team of pediatricians and infectious disease physicians.

Dr. Alexandra Bannach, a pediatrician at Newport Pediatrics continues to consult with Canaan Schools throughout the implementation of the Safe and Healthy Start Guidelines. She confirmed this week that the pediatric algorithm is intentionally kept relatively restrictive, for two reasons:

- In hopes to identify possible COVID cases as quickly as possible.
- To keep other viral illnesses out of school in order to decrease overall spreading of all viruses, as all children with viral symptoms will be considered potential COVID and allowing them in school would in the end make for more COVID suspects and excessive testing needs, potentially overwhelming the system.

We recognize it is hard for families to see their children out of school for what is usually considered minor symptoms, but it is currently the necessary approach to keep schools open throughout this school year. We appreciate our families working with us to keep school safe and healthy.

If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to me at [mprehemo@canaanschools.org](mailto:mprehemo@canaanschools.org) or 1-802-266-8910 ext 3149, after school hours you can reach me at 1-802-497-7192

Take Care,

*Megan Prehemo, RN*

Megan Prehemo, RN  
COVID Coordinator