



A Note Regarding Returning to School in Fall 2020

Dear Heart Institute Patients and Families:

We understand that many of our Heart Institute families will have questions regarding whether or not to send their child to school if there is an option to do so in the fall. Although this is ultimately a personal choice, we thought it might be helpful to let you know what we know.

Overall, children who are infected with COVID-19 generally have less severe symptoms than adults and often can be managed from home with supportive care. Locally, only a small number of Heart Institute patients have required hospitalization, mostly for additional respiratory support. Some children can develop fevers, rash and other symptoms of generalized inflammation days to weeks after having recovered from the initial COVID illness, but this is also quite rare.

Although we are still learning every day, we do not have evidence that patients with congenital heart disease are at increased risk for more severe symptoms if they get COVID-19, or at more risk of developing the later 'post-COVID' inflammatory symptoms. However, if you have any particular concerns, please feel free to contact your cardiologist to discuss issues potentially unique to your child. We will update this message with any new information as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

Cincinnati Children's Heart Institute

Updated 7/9/2020