

Finger Lakes/Western NY COVID Pediatric Return to Play After COVID Infection (Revised Jan 31, 2022)

Applies to all children 5 years and older with moderate/severe presentation

AND to youth 12 years and older participating in high intensity exercise/competitive sports only (NOT gym/physical education or recess) regardless of symptom severity.

Adapted from the AAP COVID-19 Interim Guidance: Return to Sports and Physical Activity by Anna Zuckerman, MD, FAAP and Jonathan Flyer, MD, FAAP, FACC. For detailed guidance, please refer to the [AAP COVID-19 Interim Guidance: Return to Sports and Physical Activity](#). (Last updated 1/20/2022)

BOXA: Additional Guidance on Returning to Play (Note: if the patient has already advanced back to physical activity on their own and is without abnormal cardiovascular signs/symptoms, then no further evaluation is necessary. COVID19 disease history should be documented.)

When should children and adolescents return to play?

- 1) Completed isolation and minimum amount of symptom free time has passed
- 2) Can perform all activities of daily living
- 3) No concerning signs/symptoms
- 4) Physician clearance has been given, if indicated

At what pace should children and adolescents return to play?

- 5) <12yo: progress according to own tolerance
- 6) 12+: gradual return to physical activity
 - Asymptomatic / Mild symptoms: Minimum 1 day symptom free (excluding loss of taste / smell), 2 days of increase in physical activity (i.e. one light practice, one normal practice), no games before day 3. A mask is required for ALL physical activity, including games or scrimmages, until 10 full days from + test or symptom onset have passed.
 - Moderate symptoms: Minimum 1 day symptom free (excluding loss of taste / smell), and a minimum of 4 days of gradual increase in physical activity (one light cardio workout on own, two light practices, one full practice), no games before day 5. A mask is required for ALL physical activity, including games or scrimmages, until 10 full days from + test or symptom onset have passed.

When should children and adolescents pause return to play?

- If patient develops any chest pain, SOB out of proportion to URI infection, new-onset palpitations, or syncope when returning to exercise, immediately stop and go to PCP for in-person exam and consider referral to Pediatric Cardiology