



Returning to school for children with heart diseases

With a new school year right around the corner, here are the recommendations from the cardiology department:

- We believe that it is important for the majority of our patients to return to school for their overall well-being.
- We recommend that all our patients that are eligible, get double vaccinated.
- We recommend the wearing of masks throughout the day other than when eating lunch for all children on immunosuppressive therapy.
- If a patient is not eligible for vaccination and on prednisone we suggest you discuss the return to school with your health care provider.
- Remember, it is also important for all household members to employ good hand hygiene, and other strategies to reduce transmission of COVID-19. Household members should adhere to public health physical distancing recommendations outside of the home. We also recommend that eligible family members get double-vaccinated to protect their children.

For patients at risk in the following categories, we recommend discussion with the cardiologist (less than 1% of children followed in cardiology):

- Severe pulmonary hypertension.
- Unoperated cyanotic heart disease.
- Waiting for a heart transplant or post transplant.
- Severe heart failure.
- Fontan with serious complications, in particular exudative enteropathy.