

# COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDANCE: WHEN COVID-19 SYMPTOMS DEVELOP AT SCHOOL

Last revised: February 9, 2022

**Note:** The following process is intended as a general guide and may be adapted based on circumstances.

## All students, employees and visitors complete daily screening *before* going to school:

Complete the Ontario [COVID-19 school and child care screening](#). Follow directions listed in the screening tool.



## If symptoms develop at home:

- If a **student** is unable to attend school due to COVID-19 symptoms they should follow directions listed in the screening tool, including guidance for household members. Parent/guardians should report student absences to the school that their child attends.
- If a **school employee or visitor** is unable to attend school due to COVID-19 symptoms they should follow directions listed in the screening tool, including guidance for household members. They should notify the school of their planned absence.



## If symptoms develop at school, child care, or on the bus / student transportation:

- If a **student** develops new or worsening symptom(s) of COVID-19 as per the [Ontario COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening Tool](#):
  - They should be immediately separated from others, in a separate room if possible, until they can go home.
  - Provide the symptomatic child/student with a medical mask (unless they have a valid exemption).
  - Continue to supervise the student according to the school's policy.
  - Maintain physical distance, when possible.
  - If physical distancing cannot be maintained, staff caring for student should use personal protective equipment (PPE) including gloves, medical masks, face shields and gown, to be put on before entering the room with the student.
  - Contact parent/guardian for immediate pick-up. The student should not be permitted to take school or public transportation.
  - Follow school protocols for use of PPE, cleaning and disinfection.
- If a school **employee/visitor** develops any new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19, they should go home immediately.

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## REQUIREMENTS FOR SYMPTOMATIC STUDENT, EMPLOYEE or VISITOR

Please refer to the [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance: Return to school for students, employees & visitors](#).

## HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

Students and/or school employees who are household members should leave school at the same time as the ill student, employee or visitor, with limited exceptions for operational or safety reasons.

They will need to complete and follow the instructions in the [Ontario COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#).