

COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDANCE: WHEN COVID-19 SYMPTOMS DEVELOP AT SCHOOL OR CHILD CARE

Last revised: November 23, 2021

***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 **child/student** is unable to attend school or child care due to COVID-19 symptoms: Parent/guardians should notify the school and/or child care that their child attends (and household members if applicable) that they will be absent. Follow directions listed in the screening tool.
- If a **staff or visitor** is unable to attend school or child care due to COVID-19 symptoms they should notify the school or child care of their illness and planned absence. Follow directions listed in the screening tool, including guidance for household members.



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

- If a **child/student** develops any new or worsening symptom of COVID-19 (per the 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 child/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, masks, face shields and gown, to be put on before entering the room with the student.
 - Contact parent/guardian for immediate pick-up. The child/student should not be permitted to take school or public transportation.
 - Follow school and/or child care protocols for use of PPE, cleaning and disinfection.
- If a school or child care **staff/visitor** develops any new or worsening symptom of COVID-19 (per the screening tool) the symptomatic staff/visitor should go home immediately.

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HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

Siblings / staff who are household members are recommended but not required to leave at the same time as the ill child/staff. They can complete their day and then will need to be excluded until one of the following criteria is met. Asymptomatic household members that are fully vaccinated or previously positive within 90 days are not required to self-isolate. Household members that are not fully vaccinated **MUST** stay home if a child/staff/visitor or anyone else has COVID-19 symptoms until one of the following occurs:

1. The person with symptoms is tested for COVID-19 and test results are negative; OR
2. An alternate diagnosis is given by a healthcare provider for the person who has symptoms.

If the person with symptoms in the household does NOT get tested, everyone else who is not fully vaccinated in the household **MUST** stay home for:

- 10 days from the last contact with the ill person if the ill person can self-isolate away from the rest of the household; or
- 20 days from start of the ill person's symptom(s) if the ill person **CANNOT** self-isolate away from the rest of the household.

COMMUNICATION REGARDING NEXT STEPS

The school and/or child care should be prepared to provide the SMDHU with student/staff information in the event that a child, staff, or visitor is confirmed to have COVID-19. For this reason, the school should maintain accurate records of students, staff and visitors for the last 30 days including:

- Attendance records
- Class/cohort lists and seating charts
- Before/after school child care lists
- Transportation lists & seating charts
- Updated contact information (e.g. names, date of birth, phone number and address) for students/staff
- Special assignments/programs/activities (e.g. Special Education)
- Records of essential visitors