

COVID-19 Decision Tool for Schools

For elementary and secondary students (JK-Grade 12)

Version 3.1. Updated on December 4, 2020

Updated COVID-19 screening for symptoms:

All students must complete a self-screening questionnaire before going to school. Students with chronic health issues that is medically diagnosed and unrelated to COVID-19, should look for **new, different or worsening symptoms**.

Does the student have the following symptoms (even if it is mild):



Fever >37.8°C



Cough



Difficulty breathing



Loss of taste or smell



Sore throat, painful swallowing



Stuffy/runny nose



Headache



Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea



Feeling unwell, muscle aches, tired

Student should be excluded from school, under the following conditions:

- (A) If the student has **one or more symptoms**, even if it is mild, the student should stay home, self-isolate, get tested or contact their health care provider.
- (B) If the student's **siblings, or children in the same household** has one or more of the above symptoms, the student should also stay home, self-isolate and follow instructions from public health.
- (C) If the student has been in **close contact with a person who has COVID-19**, the student will need to self-isolate for 14 days, even if they don't have symptoms. If the student has symptoms, their household members will need to stay home and self-isolate until COVID-19 is ruled out.
- (D) If the student has **travelled outside of Canada**, they must self-isolate for 14 days. Their household members do not need to self-isolate if they have not travelled, if they don't have symptoms of COVID-19, and if they are not a close contact of a positive case.

Students without symptoms

If a student does not have symptoms of COVID-19, he/she may attend school, if they do not have a sibling with symptoms (B), or they are not a close contact (C) or have travelled outside of Canada (D).

Siblings or children in same household without symptoms

- If the student has symptoms and has an alternative diagnosis, siblings do not need to self-isolate.
- If the student has symptoms and tests negative for COVID-19, the student and siblings can return to school.
- If the student has symptoms, does not go for testing and is not a close contact of a positive case, the student and siblings must self-isolate for 10 days.
- If the student has symptoms, does not go for testing and is a close contact of a positive case, the student must self-isolate for 10 days from when symptoms started. Their siblings should self-isolate for 14 days as this is how long it can take for symptoms to appear.
- If the student has symptoms and tests positive, the student must self-isolate for 10 days, and siblings must self-isolate for 14 days.

Students with symptoms

- If a student has any new or worsening symptoms, he/she must stay home, self-isolate, and get tested or contact their health care provider.
- The student's siblings will also need to stay home and self-isolate.
- Adults in the home, including parents, will have to self-monitor for symptoms, but may go to work as long as the adult does not have symptoms and the student is not a close contact of someone with COVID-19 and the student has not tested positive.

Students who test positive for COVID-19

- Student must stay home and self-isolate for 10 days, starting from the day the symptoms first appear.
- Student may return to school after 10 days if they do not have a fever (without use of medication), and their symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours.
- Students without symptoms still have to stay home and self-isolate for 10 days, from the day of the test.
- All their household members should stay home, self-isolate and follow public health advice.

Students who test negative for COVID-19

- Students may go back to school if their symptoms have been improving for 24 hours, and if they are not a close contact of someone with COVID-19 or have travelled outside of Canada.

Students with an alternative medical diagnosis who are not tested for COVID-19

- Students with symptoms, but who have been given an alternative diagnosis by a health care provider (**not** related to COVID-19), may return to school if their symptoms have been improving for 24 hours.
- Family members without symptoms should self-monitor and may go to school or work.
- A cold or respiratory infection is not considered an alternative diagnosis, and the individual should be tested for COVID-19.

Students not tested for COVID-19

- If a student has symptoms of COVID-19 that are not related to an existing medical condition and they are not tested, the student and their siblings must stay home and self-isolate for 10 days from the date their symptom(s) first started.
- Student may return to school after 10 days if they do not have a fever (without taking medication), and their symptoms are improving for 24 hours.

Students in close contact with someone with COVID-19

- Students in close contact with a person with COVID-19 must stay home and self-isolate for 14 days from their last date of exposure to that person.

Back to School Confirmation Form

- Toronto Public Health does not recommend or require medical notes for return to school.
- It is the decision of each school or school board to decide if they choose to accept a [Back to School Confirmation Form](#).