

Africentric Alternative School News

Newsletter February 2023



Hugh Reynolds, Principal
Kurt McIntosh, Superintendent
Alexandra Lulka, Trustee

School Council Co-Chairs:

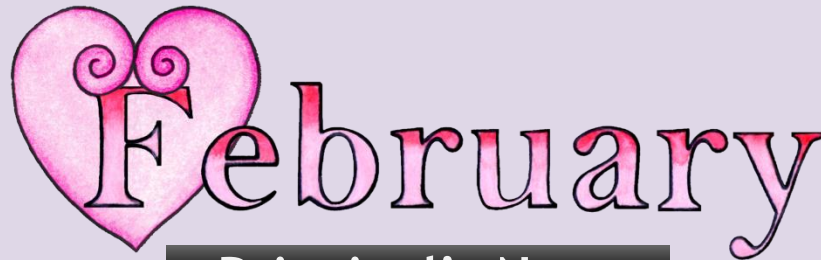
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Principal's News

Happy 2023 Africentric School families! I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful winter holiday full of relaxation and creating memories.

The last few weeks have certainly shown us what's truly important...family, connections and enjoying the natural beauty around us. It was so fantastic to finally have our Kwanzaa celebrations in person, in December to showcase our amazing students and staff.

As we start this New Year, let us keep the momentum going and continue to work together to ensure the success of all our scholars.

Registration for TDSB Kindergarten program begins in February. If you have a child who was born in 2019, they are eligible to attend Full Day Kindergarten in September 2023. Please contact our school office at 416-395-5251 to obtain registration information. Kindergarten students and parents will be invited to our annual **Welcome to Kindergarten** event, held in the Spring, to learn more about a positive transition to school.

Hard copies of Term 1 report cards will be sent home on Wednesday, February 15, 2023. We will also have parent teacher interviews on the evening of February 16th and the morning of February 17th. We believe that it is

important that families are regularly kept informed about the academic progress of our students and this is usually an opportunity to have meaningful conversations about the progress of our scholars in their classrooms.

We continue to do our best to keep all scholars and staff safe while at school as we continue to navigate our way through this pandemic.

In celebration of African Heritage Month, we are engaging our staff and scholars into multiple culturally rich activities. We are delighted to share that our grade 7/8 scholars will be featured in the TDSB Black History Month launch on February 1, 2023.

As we are still in the winter months, please remember that all students are to dress as the weather dictates. Dressing for the weather helps to keep us comfortable and can prevent hypothermia.

Finally, please join us on February 23rd at 1 p.m. for our Black History Month Celebration in the large gym. This is an opportunity for our scholars to showcase their talents.

In Partnership,
Hugh Reynolds

Upcoming Events

- Wednesday, February 15
Term 1 Report Cards to Be Sent Home
- Parent teacher interviews
P.M. February 16 & A.M.
February 17
- Friday, February 17 PA Day
- Mon., Feb. 20 Family Day
- Wednesday, February 22,
Graduation Photo SK &
Grade 8
- **Feb 23 - African Heritage
Month Assembly**
- March Break Mar 13-17

VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION PLEASE READ - School Procedures



Please ensure your
child is dressed for the
weather. Thank you
😊

Label all items that come to school with the child's name and grade.

Every day the child needs the following items:

1. Lunch & snack

2. Re-usable water bottle

3. Clothing for the weather (e.g., winter coat, boots, mitts, hat - please ensure your child is dressed for the weather)

4. Indoor and outdoor shoes – this will ensure hallways and classrooms stay clean

5. JK/SK students please bring a change of clothes as well as the above

Lockers

As part of their preparation for high school the grade 7 and 8 students will be permitted to have lockers this year.

Cell Phones

If a student has a cell phone, please remind him/her that it must be turned off during the **entire school day** and it is his/her responsibility to take care of it (without a locker) this year. Please discuss if your child can handle this responsibility. **Our school does not take responsibility for any lost or stolen items.**

TDSB Health and Safety Guidelines

It is more important than ever for families and the school to align and share responsibility for public health and safety. Thank you in advance for being strong allies and advocates for our students, the community, and our staff. Please do not send your child to school if they are ill.

Late arrivals

If your child is late for school, they have to formally be checked in with the office staff – i.e., they must obtain a late slip. We do not have supervision available once the instructional day has begun at 8:55 am. PLEASE BE ON TIME as late students disrupt the other students and the teacher in the class. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Thank you to our School's Nutrition/Snack Program Supporters.

We would like to acknowledge and thank President's Choice for the President's Choice Children's Charity School Nutrition Grant (PCC). Our Nutrition Program is also supported by the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (TFSS), City of Toronto – Public Health, Ministry of Children & Youth Services and Parents and Community.



We are **grateful** for the support of the following:

Afro Crush -

Donated funds for the Nutrition Snack Program

Augustine Asa Nte-Frempong -

Donated Kente Strips/Sashes to the 2021/2022 graduating class

Angus Systems -

a very substantial donation to assist classroom technology needs

Barilla Canada -

donated cooking demonstration, pasta, and a very substantial financial contribution for Chromebooks and music program supplies

Downsview Community Services Organization

Donated funds for the Nutrition Snack Program

House of Jua

Donated funds for the Nutrition Snack Program

Jays Care Foundation

Donated winter wear

MLSE - Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment -

Substantial donation towards school improvements in classroom and gym

Moez and Marissa Kassam Foundation and TFSS - (Toronto Foundation for Student Success)

Morning Meal/Snack Program Freezer donation

Shutterstock -

Donated books and puzzles created by black authors and illustrators

Starbucks Coffee Canada -

Employees donated hats, mitts, scarves, socks and a large quantity of school supplies

Start2Finish -

Donated backpacks and school supplies

Taste of Life Restaurant

Donation towards Grade 8 graduation

Turner Consulting Group Inc. -

Tana Turner, Principal Consultant generously donated books and resources for our library



TORONTO DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Africentric Alternative School
2022-2023

H	Statutory Holiday
B	Bd. Designated Area
PA	PA Day

September

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5 H	6 P	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Respect

October

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 PA	8
9	10 H	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Responsibility

November

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 PA	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Empathy

December

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2 PA	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Kindness & Caring

January

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 PA	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Teamwork

February

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 PA	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

Fairness

March

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Honesty

April

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 H	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Co-operation

May

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 H	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	30			

Integrity

June

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2 PA	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Perseverance

Professional Activity Days:

- Tuesday, September 6, 2022
- Friday, October 7, 2022
- Friday, November 18, 2022
- Friday, December 2, 2022
- Friday, January 13, 2023
- Friday, February 17, 2023
- Friday, June 2, 2023

First Day of School:

Wednesday, September 7, 2022

Last day of school for

Elementary students:
 Thursday, June 30, 2023

Dates to Remember:

- Labour Day:** September 5, 2022
- Thanksgiving:** October 10, 2022
- Winter Break:** December 26, 2022 - January 6, 2023 (last day of school December 23, 2022; School resumes January 9, 2023)
- Provincial Family Day:** February 20, 2023
- Mid-Winter Break:** March 13 - 17, 2023
- Good Friday:** April 7, 2023
- Easter Monday:** April 10, 2023
- Victoria Day:** May 22, 2023

VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION PLEASE READ - School Procedures

Medical Appointments and Early Pick Ups

Please try to avoid scheduling appointments (i.e. dentist, doctor) during the school day. If it is unavoidable, **please notify the office one half hour prior to your picking them.** When you arrive, please buzz the office to come in to sign your child out. Children will not be permitted to exit the school without a parent – the parking lot is not safe.

Dropping things off

Please send children to school with everything they need to avoid the need for drop off. Please send all lunches to school with children in the morning. We are unable to have a drop-off table for school lunches any longer and hence every dropped off item would mean a disruption to the entire class. For safety reasons, families are encouraged to not come and drop off anything during the day!

Lunch at School

We are STRONGLY encouraging parents to allow students to stay in their routine for the whole day. Students are expected to stay at school for lunch. Not only is this crucial for their social wellbeing during nutrition breaks, but it is safer for everyone when no one is leaving and returning to the building. No student can leave school property during lunch hour.

School Parking Lot

A reminder that we share the building with another school. Please Park in the designated parking lot and not in the bus route. Please support us with this again and

The Benefits of Being on Time - Punctuality

Punctuality is a habit of:

- Attending a task **on time.**
- Doing things at the **right time.**
- Not missing parts of the lesson and school routines
- Managing your work and personal life

Punctuality is one of the keys to a successful life.

The following are a few reasons that prove why punctuality is important for life:

1. Punctuality and time management **affects the process of learning.**
2. **A key to success...** Being punctual gives you a sense of stability, security and self-confidence.
3. **It shows your integrity and demonstrates respect for others...** being late affects those around you by interrupting other students and teachers in the class.





During Black History Month, Canadians celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians and their communities who, throughout history, have done so much to make Canada a culturally diverse, compassionate, and prosperous country.

Black history in Canada

Black Canadians and their communities have been a part of shaping Canada's heritage and identity since the arrival of Mathieu Da Costa, a navigator, and interpreter, whose presence in Canada dates back to the early 1600s.

The role of Black Canadians and their communities in Canada has largely been ignored as a key part of Canada's history. There is little mention that some of the Loyalists who came here after the American Revolution and settled in the Maritimes were people of African descent, nor the fact that many soldiers of African descent made many sacrifices in wartime as far back as the War of 1812.

Few people in Canada are aware of the fact that African people were once enslaved in the territory that is now known as Canada, or of how those who fought enslavement helped to lay the foundation of Canada's diverse and inclusive society.

Black History Month is a time to learn more about these Canadian stories and the many other important contributions that Black Canadians and their communities have made to the history and continued growth of this country.

Recognizing Black History Month in Canada

In 1978, the Ontario Black History Society (OBHS) was established. Its founders, including Dr. Daniel G. Hill and Wilson O. Brooks, presented a petition to the City of Toronto to have February formally proclaimed as Black History Month. In 1979, the first-ever Canadian proclamation was issued by Toronto.

The first Black History Month in Nova Scotia was observed in 1988 and later renamed African Heritage Month in 1996.

In 1993, the OBHS successfully filed a petition in Ontario to proclaim February as Black History Month. Following that success, Rosemary Sadlier, president of the OBHS, introduced the idea of having Black History Month recognized across Canada to the Honourable Jean Augustine, the first Black Canadian woman elected to Parliament.

In December 1995, the House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month in Canada following a motion introduced by Dr. Augustine. The House of Commons carried the motion unanimously.

In February 2008, Senator Donald Oliver, the first Black man appointed to the Senate, introduced the [Motion to Recognize Contributions of Black Canadians and February as Black History Month](#). It received unanimous approval and was adopted on March 4, 2008. The adoption of this motion completed Canada's parliamentary position on Black History Month.



Cristal Palmer -Co-Chair

Lotoya Jackson --Co-Chair

Norgie Williams -Secretary

Nawah Banyamyman -Secretary

Robert Griffiths -Treasurer

Melderick Hodge -Fundraising



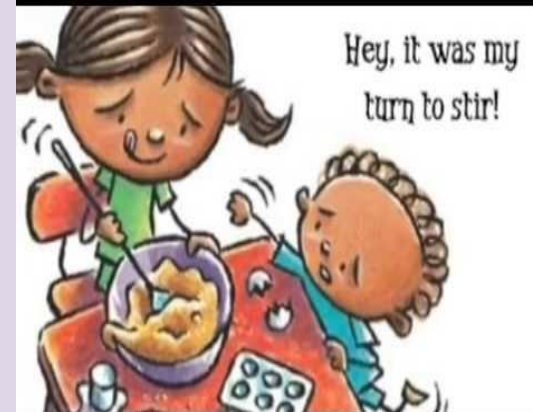
Themes of the Month - February

Fairness and KUUMBA

Theme for the
Month of
February are
**KUUMBA and
Fairness**



“Minds are like parachutes... they only function when they are open.”
– Sir James Dewar (inventor of the vacuum flask)



February is African Heritage Month at the TDSB

During the month of February, the Toronto District School Board proudly recognizes African Heritage Month. It is an occasion to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of peoples of African descent to Canada and the world. The chosen theme for **2022/2023 is Black Joy.**

The first Black Canadian woman elected to Parliament, the Honourable Jean Augustine, introduced a motion to recognize February as Black History Month. The motion was carried unanimously by the House of Commons. In December 1995, the House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month in Canada. At the Toronto District School Board, a motion to recognize African Heritage (Black History) Month was carried in January 2002 and reaffirmed again in January 2004.

Please see the full message on African Heritage Month on www.tdsb.on.ca and https://www.tdsb.on.ca/Portals/0/docs/SANKOFA_TG_final.pdf

For a listing of all our initiatives please see the Heritage/History Month website: <https://www.tdsb.on.ca/CEBSA>



Odo Nnew Fie Kwan meaning...Love does not lose its way home. Those led by love always end up in the right place.

Adinkra symbol, meaning Love, Faithfulness & Harmony



Sankofa: A symbol of the wisdom of learning from the past to build for the future.










Adinkra symbol, in the Akan language, which means – None is greater than God, the Creator. The symbol is called Gye Nyame (pronounced Gee-Nah-May)

Adinkra symbol, meaning adaptability



Nguzo Saba

The Seven Principles

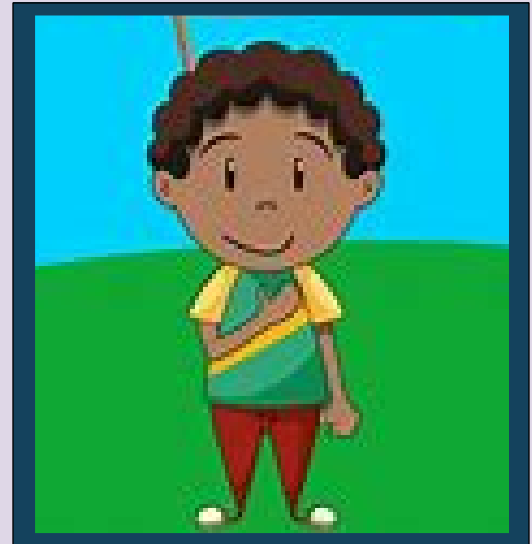
 Umoja	<p>Umoja ▲ Unity To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.</p>
 Kujichagulia	<p>Kujichagulia ▲ Self-Determination To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.</p>
 Ujima	<p>Ujima ▲ Collective Work and Responsibility To build and maintain our community together and make our brother's and sister's problems our problems and to solve them together.</p>
 Ujamaa	<p>Ujamaa ▲ Cooperative Economics To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.</p>
 Nia	<p>Nia ▲ Purpose To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.</p>
 Kuumba	<p>Kuumba ▲ Creativity To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.</p>
 Imani	<p>Imani ▲ Faith To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.</p>

Dr. Maulana Karenga
 Creator of Kwanzaa
 ©1965

University of Sankofa Press, 3018 West 48th Street, Los Angeles, CA 90043 • (323) 295-9799

**Africentric Alternative School
2022-2023 Daily Schedule
Have a Happy Day!**

Entry Time	8:50 - 8:55 a.m.
Period 1	8:55 - 9:25 a.m.
Period 2	9:25 - 10:05 a.m.
Recess	10:05 - 10:20 a.m.
Period 3	10:20 - 11:00 a.m.
Period 4	11:00 - 11:40 a.m.
Lunch	11:40 - 12:30 p.m.
Entry Time	12:30 - 12:35 p.m.
Period 5	12:35 - 1:15 p.m.
Period 6	1:15 - 1:55 p.m.
Recess	1:55 - 2:05 p.m.
Period 7	2:05 - 2:45 p.m.
Period 8	2:45 - 3:15 p.m.



**Africentric Alternative School
School Pledge**

Today I pledge to be the best possible me.

No matter how good I am, I know that I can become better.

Today I pledge to build on the work of yesterday which will lead me into the rewards of tomorrow.

Today I pledge to feed my mind knowledge, my body strength, and my spirit faith.

Today I pledge to take my education seriously and I will always do my best, at school, at home, and in my community.

Today I pledge to be focused, self-disciplined and ready to learn

Today I pledge to believe in me.

Ashe

Black History Month in Canada

The Centre of Excellence for Black Student Achievement has created a new website that features resources and programs, opportunities for ongoing collaboration with families, and initiatives to enhance partnerships with community organizations and service providers. The content is focused on improving experiences of belonging and academic outcomes for Black students.

Please visit www.tdsb.on.ca/cebsa for information on programs, resources, news and more.



GENERAL HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS



NO SMOKING

TDSB Policy PR502 prohibits smoking on school property. Please help us keep a healthy learning environment that is free from smoking.



Student Pick up and Drop off

We are reminding you that the bus loop at the front of our school should not be used for student drop off or pick up. To ensure the safety of all students, please park in the designated parents'/visitors' parking area at the side or back of the building. Thank you for helping us to keep our students safe.



Access to Building

Reducing the number of people in the building is crucial to our success during this critical time. Only students and staff may enter the building. Essential visitors (i.e., maintenance) will be allowed into the building during the school day; however, parents and visitors will not be permitted in the school. Any parent meetings will take place virtually or over the phone. Please call the school if you would like to schedule an appointment with administration or staff.



Easy Black History Month

B	M	C	I	L	I	C	A	S	C	I	D	A	E
T	L	I	L	L	C	S	A	I	A	O	C	A	C
P	N	U	T	R	P	B	P	B	C	B	R	S	H
E	P	R	E	E	T	T	R	U	O	C	C	A	V
A	S	M	B	S	O	S	L	N	L	E	H	C	E
C	P	U	R	R	C	D	R	E	A	M	A	Q	V
E	E	S	C	D	A	L	I	V	I	C	U	P	L
R	E	V	V	O	R	V	R	E	D	A	E	L	A
E	C	T	E	V	O	L	E	C	L	O	E	E	A
O	H	M	V	D	G	N	I	T	O	V	U	C	G
U	C	I	V	R	I	G	H	T	S	I	I	L	U
E	E	C	S	D	P	R	F	C	A	R	E	A	R
R	V	P	V	A	C	T	G	C	F	A	I	T	V
E	H	C	R	A	M	N	A	A	C	P	R	H	I

- BLUES
- MARCH
- LOVE
- AFRICA
- NAACP
- BRAVE
- EQUAL
- DREAM
- SPEECH
- LEADER
- PEACE
- VOTING
- RIGHTS
- CIVIL
- COURT

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/550705/>

Valentine's Day Word Search

c g f l o w e r s i p
 j s w e e t h e a r t
 e f p a c u p i d a e
 v h o i k a c p s r t
 a o g u y h e a r t s
 l o v e r r d e g o f
 e k r a p t r r o w r
 n r i r o s e s p x i
 t o h s d r d e i r e
 i s u h s p i n n h n
 n r g a r e l l k t d
 e o s c h o s r o s h
 s w e e r t s f r i e
 v c h o c o l a t e k

valentine
 arrow
 cupid
 hearts
 love

red
 fourteenth
 hugs
 chocolate
 pink

roses
 friend
 flowers
 sweetheart
 kisses



COVID-19 & Respiratory Viruses

Daily screening for children/students/adults. A parent/guardian can complete for their child.

September 6, 2022

1. Do you have any of these new or worsening symptoms*?

A) One or more:



Fever > 37.8°C and/or chills



Cough



Trouble breathing



Decrease or loss of taste/smell

B) Two or more:



Sore throat



Headache



Feeling very tired



Runny nose/
nasal congestion



Muscle aches/
joint pain



Nausea/vomiting/
diarrhea

2. Have you tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 10 days and have symptom(s)?

Yes

No



If "YES" to Q.1 or 2 Stay home & self-isolate +



Follow extra measures

3. Do you have only one symptom from 1(B) OR any of the following new or worsening symptoms*?

Yes

No

- Abdominal pain
- Pink eye
- Decreased or no appetite



If "YES" Stay home until your symptom is improving for 24 hours (48 hours for nausea/vomiting/diarrhea) and you do not have any new symptoms

4. Have you been told that you should be quarantining, isolating, staying at home, or not attending school or child care right now? (e.g. by a doctor, federal border agent, public health)?

Yes

No



If "YES" Stay home + Follow instructions you were given

5. Have you been told you are a close contact of someone who has symptoms OR someone who tested positive for COVID-19?

Yes

No



If "YES" Follow extra measures + If symptoms* develop, self-isolate right away

*If the symptom is from a known health condition that gives you the symptom, select "No". If the symptom is new, different or getting worse, select "Yes". If there is mild tiredness, sore muscles or joints within 48 hours after a COVID-19 or flu vaccine, select "No".



COVID-19 & Respiratory Viruses Screening Tool Next Steps

If you answered "YES" to any of the questions on page 1, follow the below instructions:

Stay Home & Self-Isolate if You are Sick:

Stay home until you have no fever and your symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours (or 48 hours if nausea/vomiting/diarrhea).

Anyone who is feeling sick or has any new or worsening symptoms of illness, including those not listed in this screening tool, should stay home until their symptoms are improving and seek assessment from their health care provider if needed.

Follow Extra Measures:

For 10 days after the start of symptoms **OR** a positive COVID-19 test (whichever came first) **OR** for 10 days after your last close contact with a person who has symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test:



- Wear a well-fitted mask in all public settings (including schools/child care, unless <2 years of age);



- Avoid non-essential activities where you need to take off your mask (e.g., dining out, playing a wind instrument, high contact sports where masks cannot be safely worn), with reasonable exceptions such as when eating in a shared space at school while maintaining as much distancing as possible;



- Do not visit people or settings (e.g. hospitals, long-term care homes) at higher risk, including where there are seniors or those who are immunocompromised.

Follow this advice even if you test negative for COVID-19 or you did not do a test. These measures are an added layer of prevention against the spread of COVID-19 and respiratory viruses.

Follow Additional Guidance if Immunocompromised OR Living in a Highest-Risk Congregate Care Setting:

If residing in a highest-risk setting **OR** immunocompromised **OR** hospitalized for COVID-19 related illness, your isolation requirements may differ. See the [provincial screening tool](#) for additional guidance.

Follow Additional Guidance as Instructed:

If you have you been told that you should be quarantining, isolating, staying at home, or not attending school or child care right now (e.g., by a doctor, federal border agent, public health):

- Follow the guidance or directions that have been provided to you.
- If you travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days, follow federal [requirements](#) for quarantine and testing after returning from international travel.

Get Tested and Treated if Eligible:

- COVID-19 testing and treatments are available to certain groups. See [here](#) for more information.

This tool is consistent with provincial guidance: [COVID-19 School and Childcare Screening and Management of Cases & Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario \(gov.on.ca\)](#)