

# COVID-19 Decision Tool for School Students

For elementary and secondary students (JK-Grade 12)

Version 3.6. Updated July 15, 2021

## Updated COVID-19 screening for symptoms:

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

\*If the student aged 12 years and older has symptoms of a mild headache, tiredness, sore muscles or joints that occur within 48 hours after getting a COVID-19 vaccine, they should indicate "NO" to the symptoms, and the student is to wear a fitted mask when at school. If their symptoms last longer than 48 hours or worsen, they are to stay home, self-isolate and get tested.

## Does the student have any of the following symptoms?



Fever >37.8°C



Cough



Difficulty breathing



Decrease or loss of taste or smell



Sore throat, painful swallowing



Stuffy/runny nose



Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea



Headache\*



Feeling unwell, muscle aches, tired\*

## The student should be excluded from school under the following conditions:

- (A) If the student has **one or more symptoms** even if it is mild or has resolved, the student should stay home, self-isolate, and get tested or contact their health care provider.
- (B) If anyone in the student's **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** they will need to stay home and self-isolate for 14 days, even if they don't have symptoms.\*\*
- (D) If the student has **travelled outside of Canada** they must **self-isolate** for 14 days.\*\*

\*\*If the student is fully vaccinated (has received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine and it has been more than two weeks since the last dose) and does not have symptoms, they may not need to self-isolate. If they are returning from travel, they must be fully vaccinated prior to their arrival in Canada and meet the federal [Group Exemptions, Quarantine Requirements under the Quarantine Act](#).

## Student does not have symptoms of COVID-19

If the student does not have symptoms of COVID-19 they can attend school if:

- they do not have a household member with symptoms (see B)

## Student has symptoms but is not a close contact of someone with COVID-19

- If the student has any new or worsening symptoms, they must stay home, self-isolate, and get tested or contact their health care provider, even if the symptom has resolved.
- Anyone in the household who attends a school setting must also stay home and self-isolate until the child's test is negative.

### **Student has symptoms and tests positive for COVID-19**

- The student must stay home and self-isolate for 10 days, starting from the day the symptoms started.
- The 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.
- Even if the student does not have symptoms they must stay home and self-isolate for 10 days from the day of the test.
- All other adults and children in the household members must stay home, self-isolate for at least 14 days from their last contact with the person who was contagious, and follow public health advice.

### **Student has symptoms and tests negative for COVID-19**

- The student may return 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.
- Household members can return to school right away as long as they do not have symptoms.

### **Student has symptoms, is not a close contact of a positive case, and is not tested for COVID-19**

- If the student has symptoms of COVID-19 that are not related to an existing medical condition or recent COVID-19 vaccination\* and they are not tested, they must stay home and self-isolate for 10 days from the date their symptom(s) started. The student can return to school after 10 days if they do not have a fever (without taking medication), and their symptoms have been improving for 24 hours.
- The children and adults in the household that attend a school must self-isolate and can return to school after 14 days (since their last contact with the infectious student), as long as they do not have symptoms.

### **Student has symptoms but has an alternative medical diagnosis, but is not tested for COVID-19**

- Students who have symptoms, but 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.
- A cold or respiratory infection is not considered an alternative diagnosis, and the individual should be tested for COVID-19.
- Household members can return to school right away as long as they do not have symptoms.

### **Student has symptoms but is 12 years of age and older and has had a recent COVID-19 vaccination, but is not tested for COVID-19**

- If the student is 12 years of age or older and has recently received their COVID-19 vaccination and has symptoms of a mild headache, tiredness, sore muscles or joints occur within 48 hours after getting a COVID-19 vaccine, they can attend school and wear a properly fitted mask.
- If their symptoms last longer than 48 hours or worsen, they are to stay home, self-isolate and get tested.

### **Student has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19**

- A student who has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 must stay home and self-isolate for 14 days.
- The student should go for testing. Even if the test is negative, they will have to self-isolate for the full 14 days.
- Household members can attend school/child care/work, as long as they don't have symptoms of COVID-19, but will need to stay home for other non-essential reasons until the student who is a close contact completes their period of self-isolation.
- If the student develops symptoms, all children and adults in the household that are not fully vaccinated must stay home and self-isolate until COVID-19 is ruled out.

### **Household member has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19**

- Any household member who has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 must stay home and self-isolate for 14 days, and arrange to get tested. Even if the test is negative, they must self-isolate for the full 14 days.

- The student and the other individuals in the household who are not close contacts can attend school/child care/day camp/work, as long as they don't have symptoms of COVID-19, but will need to stay home for other non-essential reasons until the student who is a close contact completes their period of self-isolation.
- If the household member who has been in close contact develops symptoms, all children and adults in the household that are not fully vaccinated must stay home and self-isolate until COVID-19 is ruled out

#### **Student who is fully vaccinated has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19**

- If a student is fully vaccinated with 2 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, and it has been more than 2 weeks since the last dose, and the student does not have symptoms, they do not need to self-isolate.
- The student should still go for testing if recommended.
- If the fully vaccinated student develops symptoms, they must self-isolate immediately and get tested.

#### **Household member who is fully vaccinated has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19**

- If a household member is fully vaccinated with 2 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, and it has been more than 2 weeks since the last dose, and they do not have symptoms, they do not need to self-isolate.
- The household member should still go for testing if recommended.
- If the fully vaccinated household member develops symptoms, they must self-isolate immediately and get tested.

#### **Student has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 and develops symptoms, but is not tested**

- The student must self-isolate for 10 days from when their symptoms started.
- All household contacts should self-isolate for 14 days or more as this is how long it can take for their symptoms to appear.

#### **Household member has symptoms of COVID-19 and is not a close contact of a positive case**

- If a household member has symptoms of COVID-19, any children and adults who attend a school setting must stay home until COVID-19 is ruled out for the household member with symptoms.
- If the household member with symptoms does not go for testing the children and adults in the home must self-isolate for 14 days.
- If the household member has symptoms of a mild headache, tiredness, sore muscles or joints that occur within 48 hours after getting a COVID-19 vaccine, children and adults in the home can attend a school/child care/work setting. If symptoms last longer than 48 hours or worsen, the household member is to stay home, self-isolate and get tested. Children and adults in the home will have to stay home until the person with the symptoms tests negative.

#### **Household member has symptoms and is a close contact of someone who had COVID-19**

- If a household member has symptoms of COVID-19 and is a close contact of someone who has COVID-19, all children and adults in the household must stay home and self-isolate until COVID-19 is ruled out.
- If the household member with symptoms is not tested the rest of the household must self-isolate for 14 days from their last contact with the infectious household member.
- If the household member tests negative, children/adults in the home can return to school/child care/work but will need to stay home for other non-essential reasons until the household member completes their self-isolation.

#### **Student has travelled outside of Canada**

- If the student has travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days, they must self-isolate for 14 days.
- The other individuals in the household who have not travelled can attend school/child care/work, as long as they don't have symptoms of COVID-19, but they will need to stay home for other non-essential reasons until the person who has travelled completes their period of self-isolation
- If the student who travelled does not have symptoms and they are fully vaccinated (have received both doses of a two-dose series and it has been more than two weeks since their last dose) prior to their entry

into Canada, they may not need to self-isolate. There are some exemptions for people eligible to enter Canada who also meet specific [federal conditions for fully vaccinated travellers](#).

### **Household member has travelled outside of Canada**

- If anyone in the household has travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days, the person who travelled must self-isolate for 14 days.
- The other individuals in the household who have not travelled can attend school/child care/work, as long as they don't have symptoms of COVID-19, but they will need to stay home for other non-essential reasons until the household member who has travelled completes their period of self-isolation
- If the individual is exempt from travel self-isolation period ([federal quarantine requirements](#)) because they perform an essential job (e.g. truck driver, pilot) the rest of the household can still attend school.
- If the individual who travelled does not have symptoms and they are fully vaccinated (have received both doses of a two-dose series and it has been more than two weeks since their last dose) prior to their entry into Canada, they may not need to self-isolate. There are some exemptions for people eligible to enter Canada who also meet specific [federal conditions for fully vaccinated travellers](#).

### **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*.