

COVID-19 Decision Tool for School Students

For elementary and secondary students (JK-Grade 12)

Version 3.2. Updated February 10, 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**.

Does the student have any of the following symptoms?



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

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 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 a **household member that has been in close contact with a person who has COVID-19**, all children in the household must stay home from school for 14 days (until the person who had close contact has completed their self-isolation period).
- (E) If the student has **travelled outside of Canada** they must **self-isolate** for 14 days.
- (F) If the student has a **household member that has travelled outside of Canada** all individuals in the household who attend a school setting must stay home until the individual who travelled completes their 14 day travel quarantine. Note: This does not apply if the person who travelled performs an essential job (e.g. truck driver, pilot) and is exempt from travel quarantine.

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); or
- they or any member of their household are not a close contact of someone with COVID-19 (see C, D); or
- they or any member of their household have not travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days (see E, F).

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

- If the student has any new or worsening symptoms, he/she must stay home, self-isolate, and get tested or contact their health care provider, even if the symptom has resolved.
- Any other children and adults in the household who attend a school will also need to stay home.
- Adults in the home, including parents, who do not attend a school must self-monitor for symptoms, but can go to work as long as they do not have symptoms and the student has not tested positive.

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, 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 and is not tested for COVID-19

- If the student has symptoms of COVID-19 that are not related to an existing medical condition 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 stay home and can return to school after 10 days 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 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.
- Any children in the household must stay home from school until the student who is a close contact completes their period of self-isolation.
- Adults in the home can attend work or school as long as they do not have symptoms.

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.
- Any children in the household must stay home from school until the person who is a close contact completes their 14 days of self-isolation.
- Adults in the home can go to work or school as long as they do not have symptoms.

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.
- Any children and adults who attend a school 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

- 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 who attend a school setting must stay home for 10 days.

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 stay home for 14 days.
- If the household member tests negative, children in the home will still need to stay home from school 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.
- Everyone in the household who attends a school setting must also stay home until the person who travelled completes their 14 day period of self-isolation.

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.
- Everyone in the household who attends a school setting will also need to stay home until the person who travelled completes the 14 day period of self-isolation.
- If the individual is exempt from travel self-isolation period because they perform an essential job (e.g. truck driver, pilot), the rest of the household can still attend school.

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*.