

MY CHILD/STUDENT HAS 1 OR MORE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19



THE CHILD/STUDENT SHOULD STAY HOME, SELF-ISOLATE & GET TESTED.

Notify the child care/school that they have symptoms.

WHAT WAS THE RESULT OF THE COVID-19 TEST?

POSITIVE

- Let the child care/school know that they tested positive for COVID-19.
- The child/student must stay home & self-isolate for 10 days from the day their symptoms started. They can return on day 11, even if someone else at home develops symptoms.
- Household members & close contacts who are not fully vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine* must self-isolate for at least 10 days and should get tested.
- Toronto Public Health will contact you to do an investigation & will provide further instructions.

NEGATIVE

Is the child/student a close contact of someone who tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 10 days?

- No** They may return 24 hours after their symptoms have started improving (48 hours for nausea, vomiting or diarrhea).
- Yes** **If the child/student is not fully vaccinated*:** they need to self-isolate for 10 days from last exposure to the person who was positive.
- Yes** **If the child/student is fully vaccinated*:** they may return 24 hours after their symptoms have started improving (48 hours for nausea, vomiting or diarrhea).
- Yes** **If the child/student has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and was cleared:** they may return 24 hours after their symptoms have started improving (48 hours for nausea, vomiting or diarrhea).
- Yes** **If the child/student only received an exposure notification through the COVID Alert app:** they can return 24 hours after their symptoms have started improving (48 hours if nausea, vomiting or diarrhea).

Siblings and adults in the home who attend a child care/school setting can return right away as long as there are no other household members with symptoms.

NOT TESTED

- The child/student must stay home & self-isolate for 10 days from the day symptoms started. On day 11, the child/student can return to the child care/school setting if their symptoms are improving.
- Anyone in the household who is not fully vaccinated* or has not tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and was cleared, must self-isolate until the child/student gets a negative COVID-19 test or 10 days have passed.
- If a health care provider has diagnosed a condition that isn't related to COVID-19, the child/student can return 24 hours after their symptoms improve (48 hours for nausea, vomiting or diarrhea). Household members do not need to stay home.



If the child/student travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days:

- The child/student must follow federal guidelines for quarantine and testing after returning from international travel.
- If the child/student is fully vaccinated they may be exempt from federal quarantine. If the child/student is not fully vaccinated, they are not to attend school/child care for 14 days, even if they traveled with a vaccinated companion.
- **Follow federal requirements for travellers.**



*Fully vaccinated means 14 days or more after getting a second dose of a two dose COVID-19 vaccine series or one dose of a single dose series.

COVID-19 Decision Tool for School Students

For elementary and secondary students (JK-Grade 12)

Version 4.0. Updated September 2, 2021

Please note: that the terms **Fully Vaccinated**, **Previous recent COVID-19 infection**, **Full list of symptoms of COVID-19** and **Symptoms** are referred to in this document. Their definitions for the purpose of this document are listed below and should only be interpreted exactly as defined.

Definitions:

- **Fully vaccinated:** Fully vaccinated means 14 days or more after getting a second dose of a two dose COVID-19 vaccine series or a single dose of a one dose vaccine series. They may not need to self-isolate as long as they don't have symptoms.
- **Previous recent COVID-19 infection:** Person has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and has been cleared by public health. They may not need to self-isolate as long as they don't have symptoms.
- **Full list of symptoms of COVID-19:** Watch closely for any symptom of COVID-19, especially if a close contact of someone who tested positive. The full list of symptoms include: fever or chills; cough; trouble breathing; decrease or loss of taste or smell; nausea, vomiting or diarrhea; tired, sore muscles or joints; sore throat; runny or stuffy nose, abdominal pain, headache, pink eye; or a decrease or lack of appetite.
- **Symptoms:** The daily screening tool lists five symptoms to screen for each day. For students they include: fever and/or chills, cough, trouble breathing, decrease or loss of taste or nausea, vomiting or diarrhea. For staff/visitors/adult learners they include: fever and/or chills, cough, trouble breathing, decrease or loss of taste or smell, tiredness, sore muscles or joints.

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 on the daily screening tool?



Fever >37.8°C
and/or chills



Cough



Difficulty breathing



Decrease or loss of taste
or smell



Nausea, vomiting,
diarrhea

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 COVID-19 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 10 days, even if they don't have symptoms, and even if they test negative.*
- (D) If the student has **travelled outside of Canada** they must self-isolate for 14 days if they do not qualify for a federal quarantine travel exemption.**
- (E) Anyone who is **sick or has any symptoms of illness** should stay home and seek assessment from their health care provider if needed.

*Those who are *fully vaccinated* and/or who have had a *previous recent COVID-19 infection* may not need to self-isolate if they do not have symptoms.

**If *fully vaccinated* they may be exempt from federal quarantine. If not fully vaccinated, they are not to attend school/child care for 14 days, even if they traveled with a vaccinated companion. See federal requirements: [Group Exemptions, Quarantine Requirements under the Quarantine Act](#).

Student has symptoms and 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 must stay at home until the student/child showing symptoms tests negative, or is cleared by the public health unit, or is diagnosed with another illness. Household members who are *fully vaccinated* or have had a *previous recent COVID-19 infection* are not required to stay home.

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 on day 11 if they do not have a fever (without use of medication), and their symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours (48 hours for nausea, vomiting, diarrhea).
- Even if the student does not have symptoms they must stay home and self-isolate for 10 days from the day of the test.
- Household members and close contacts who are *fully vaccinated* or have had a *previous recent COVID-19 infection* are not required to self-isolate.

Student has symptoms and tests negative for COVID-19

- The student may return to school if their symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (48 hours for nausea, vomiting or diarrhea), and if they are not a close contact of someone with COVID-19
- If they have travelled outside Canada and are exempt from federal quarantine, they can return to school if symptoms are improving.
- 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 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 (48 hours for nausea, vomiting, diarrhea).
- Household members who are not *fully vaccinated* or have not had a *previous recent COVID-19 infection* must self-isolate until the student with symptoms gets a negative COVID-19 test or 10 days have passed.

Student has symptoms and has an alternative medical diagnosis. 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 (48 hours for nausea, vomiting, diarrhea).
- A student who is ill or has multiple symptoms of illness that could be COVID-19 should be tested for COVID-19 or seek assessment from their health care provider.
- 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 and has no symptoms

- A student who has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 and is not *fully vaccinated* or has not had a *previous recent COVID-19 infection* must self-isolate for 10 days. The student should go for testing. Even if the test is negative, they will have to self-isolate for the full 10 days. At least one test is recommended on day 7 or later from the last day of exposure to the positive person.
- If the household member does not have symptoms, they can leave for essential reasons including: going to school/child care/work and essential errands such as, obtaining groceries, attending medical appointments or picking up prescription. They will need to stay home for other non-essential reasons until

the student who is a close contact completes their period of self-isolation. Household members who are *fully vaccinated* or had a *previous recent COVID-19 infection* are not required to stay home.

Student has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 and has one or more symptoms

- If the student develops a symptom from the *full list of COVID-19 symptoms*, they should get tested right away. Household members who are not *fully vaccinated* or have not had a *previous recent COVID-19 infection* must self-isolate until the student with symptoms gets a negative COVID-19 test.
- Household members who are fully vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine or had a *previous recent COVID-19 infection* are not required to stay home.

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

- Household members who are not *fully vaccinated* or have not had a *previous recent COVID-19 infection* must self-isolate for 10 days, and arrange to get tested. Even if the test is negative, they must self-isolate for the full 10 days.
- The student and the other individuals in the household who are not close contacts 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 household member who is a close contact completes their period of self-isolation.
- If the household member who has been in close contact develops a symptom from the *full list of COVID-19 symptoms*, all children and adults in the household that are not *fully vaccinated* or have not had a *previous recent COVID-19 infection* must stay home and self-isolate until COVID-19 is ruled out.

Student who is fully vaccinated or had a previous recent COVID-19 infection with a COVID-19 vaccine and has been in close contact with someone with COVID-19

- If a student is *fully vaccinated* or had a *previous recent COVID-19 infection* and the student does not have a symptom from the *full list of COVID-19 symptoms*, they do not need to self-isolate. For 10 days after their last exposure, the student should:
 - wear a mask and maintain physical distancing when outside of the home to reduce the risk of spreading to others in the event they test positive; and
 - monitor for the *full list of COVID-19 symptoms* daily and self-isolate immediately if a symptom develops
- The student should still go for testing if recommended.

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

- If a household member is *fully vaccinated* or had a *previous recent COVID-19 infection* and they do not have a symptom from the *full list of COVID-19 symptoms*, they do not need to self-isolate; otherwise they will need to self-isolate for 10 days.
- Students who live with them can continue to attend school as long as the household member does not have a symptom from the *full list of COVID-19 symptoms*.
- If the household member develops a symptom from the *full list of COVID-19 symptoms* the student will need to stay home until COVID-19 is ruled out unless the student is *fully vaccinated* or has had a *previous recent COVID-19 infection*.

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.
- Household members who are not *fully vaccinated* or have not had a *previous recent COVID-19 infection* must self-isolate for 10 days or more as this is how long it can take for their symptoms to appear.
- Household members who are *fully vaccinated* or had a *previous recent COVID-19 infection* do not need to self-isolate. For 10 days after their last exposure to the student, the household member should:
 - wear a mask and maintain physical distancing when outside of the home to reduce the risk of spreading to others in the event they test positive; and

- monitor for the *full list of COVID-19 symptoms* daily and self-isolate immediately if a symptom develops

Household member has symptoms of COVID-19

- If a household member has symptoms of COVID-19, any children and adults in the household who are not *fully vaccinated* or have not had a *previous recent COVID-19 infection* must stay home and self-isolate until COVID-19 is ruled out or if not tested, for at least 10 days.

Student has travelled outside of Canada

- The student must follow federal guidelines for quarantine and testing after returning from international travel.
- If the student is *fully vaccinated* they **may** be exempt from federal quarantine. If the child/student is not *fully vaccinated*, they are not to attend school/child care for 14 days, even if they traveled with a vaccinated companion.
- If the student develops a symptom from the *full list of COVID-19 symptoms*, they should self-isolate and get tested right away.
- Follow [federal quarantine requirements](#).

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 if they do not meet the exemptions for [federal quarantine requirements](#).
- 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.
- If the household member who travelled develops a symptom from the *full list of COVID-19 symptoms*, the student will need to stay home until COVID-19 is ruled out unless the student is *fully vaccinated* or has had a *previous recent COVID-19 infection*.

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*.

References

Government of Ontario (2021) [COVID-19 School and Childcare Screening](#)

Ministry of Health (2021) [COVID-19 School Case, Contact and Outbreak Management](#)

Ministry of Health (2021) [COVID-19 Fully Immunized and Previously Positive Individuals: Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Interim Guidance](#)

Ministry of Health (2021) [COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms](#)

Ministry of Health (2021) [Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario](#)