

COVID-19 Decision Tool for School Students (JK-12)

Version 2.1. Updated on October 4, 2020

Effective October 1st, the provincial Ministry of Health has updated COVID-19 symptom screening for students JK-12.

Screening is now divided into two groups of symptoms:

1. Symptoms



Fever >37.8°C



Cough



Difficulty breathing



Loss of taste or smell

2. Symptoms



Sore throat, painful swallowing



Stuffy/runny nose



Headache



Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea



Feeling unwell, muscle aches, tired

Daily Self-Screening for Students

Every student must complete a daily self-screening questionnaire before going to school. Students with chronic symptoms due to a medically diagnosed condition other than COVID-19, should look for **new, different or worsening symptoms**.

In most scenarios, students may be excluded from school:

- (A) 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.
- (B) 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 are not a close contact (A) or have travelled outside of Canada (B).

Students with symptoms

1. **If a student has any new or worsening symptoms of [fever, cough, difficulty breathing or loss of taste/smell]:** The student must stay home, self-isolate, and get tested or contact their health care provider. The student's household members will have to self-monitor for symptoms. They may go to school or work if they don't have symptoms, and the student is not a close contact of someone with COVID-19 (A).
2. **If a student has ONE of the following symptoms of [sore throat, stuffy/runny nose, headache, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, muscle ache/fatigue]:** The student must stay home for 24 hours. If the symptom is improving, they can return to school 24 hours later. Testing is not needed. If the symptom is not improving after 24 hours or is getting worse, the student should stay home, self-isolate and get tested or contact their health care provider.
3. **If a student has TWO of the following symptoms of [sore throat, stuffy/runny nose, headache, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, muscle ache/fatigue]:** The student must stay home, self-isolate for 10 days, and get tested or contact their health care provider.

Students with a Laboratory Confirmed Positive COVID-19 Test

- Students they must stay home and self-isolate for 10 days from the day the symptoms first appear. They 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 must stay home and self-isolate for 10 days, from the day the test was done.
- Family members of the student who test positive should self-isolate and follow public health advice.

Students with Negative Test

Students can 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 (A) or have travelled outside of Canada (B).

Students who are not tested – Alternative diagnosis

- Students with an alternative diagnosis from a health care provider that is **not** related to COVID-19 can go back to school once their symptoms have been improving for 24 hours. Family members without symptoms, should self-monitor, and can go back to school or work.

Students who are not tested for COVID-19

- If a student is not tested and has any new or worsening symptoms not related to an existing medical condition:
 - **ONE of the following symptoms:** fever, cough, difficulty breathing or loss of taste/smell.
 - **ONE of the following symptoms that does not improve in 24 hours:** sore throat, stuffy/runny nose, headache, nausea/ vomiting/diarrhea, muscle ache/fatigue.
 - **TWO of the following symptoms:** sore throat, stuffy/runny nose, headache, nausea/ vomiting/diarrhea, muscle ache/fatigue].
- The student must self-isolate for **10 days** from the date their symptom(s) first appear. They 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 who are close contacts of 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.

Back to School Confirmation Form

- Parents can complete a "[Back to School Confirmation Form](#)" to provide to the school to confirm the child is safe to return to school.
- Toronto Public Health is not recommending or requiring medical notes for return to school.