

Schools Reopening 2020

Presentation for the Board of Health

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Toronto Public Health**

September 21, 2020

Roles: Province, City and Schools

SUPPORTING SCHOOLS DURING COVID-19

THE PROVINCE

- Ministry of Education approves school boards plans & provides COVID-19 protocols.
- Ministry of Health provides guidance to public health on how to investigate cases of COVID-19 in schools.

Ontario Health works with assessment centres to coordinate testing, including for schools as needed.



LOCAL SCHOOL

- Reports confirmed COVID-19 cases in a school setting.
- Works with Toronto Public Health to notify the school community. Keeps the individual's identity private.
- Carries out actions such as screening, cleaning & disinfecting & staff & student training to prevent virus spread, as advised by Toronto Public Health and the Ministry of Education.



TORONTO PUBLIC HEALTH

- Once notified of a positive case, conducts case & contact tracing & provides guidance.
- Provides advice to schools on preventing virus spread.
- Declares an outbreak if there are 2+ positive cases in a school within a 14-day period, with at least 1 case traced back to the school.
- Recommends testing for schools, as needed.
- Communicates information to the school community directly, through social media & other channels.



Case and Contact Management

Notification Process: When a Case is linked to a school

Provincial webpage to monitor cases in schools and daycares

Summary of cases in schools

This report provides a summary of COVID-19 activity in publicly-funded Ontario schools.

Schools are reopening in phases and all schools will be open by September 21, 2020.

Last updated: September 18 at 10:30 a.m.

Summary of cases in publicly-funded schools

Report	Number of new cases reported	Cumulative total
School-related cases (total)	11	72
School-related student cases	5	25

School-related staff cases

Individual(s) not identified

Number of schools with reported cases and schools closed

Report

Current number of schools with a reported case

Summary of cases in licensed child care settings

Report	Number of new cases reported	Cumulative total
Confirmed cases in child care centres and homes	4	76
Child-care related child cases	1	35
Child-care related staff/provider cases	3	41
Individual(s) not identified	0	0
Centres closed	1	21
Homes closed	5	85

TPH Notification Process



To report confirmed student or staff COVID-19 cases, please submit the following information to:

CovidSchools@toronto.ca

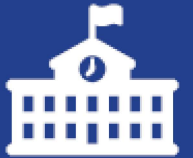
Monday to Friday
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, Sunday and
Stat holidays
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

After Hours, call 311.

- Name of school
- Name, role and contact info of person making the report
- First name, last name and contact info of ill staff/student (including date of birth)
- Onset date of symptoms
- Last day that the ill staff/student was at school

Toronto Public Health COVID-19 Contact List for Schools 2020/2021



For general COVID-19 inquiries:

Call the Toronto Public Health Hotline: 416-338-7600

Or visit our website:

For general information: toronto.ca/COVID19

For school information: toronto.ca/COVID19SchoolInfo



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- Onset date of symptoms
- Last day that the ill staff/student was at school



To report non-COVID-19 reportable communicable diseases:

Call the Communicable Disease
Surveillance Unit Information
Line:

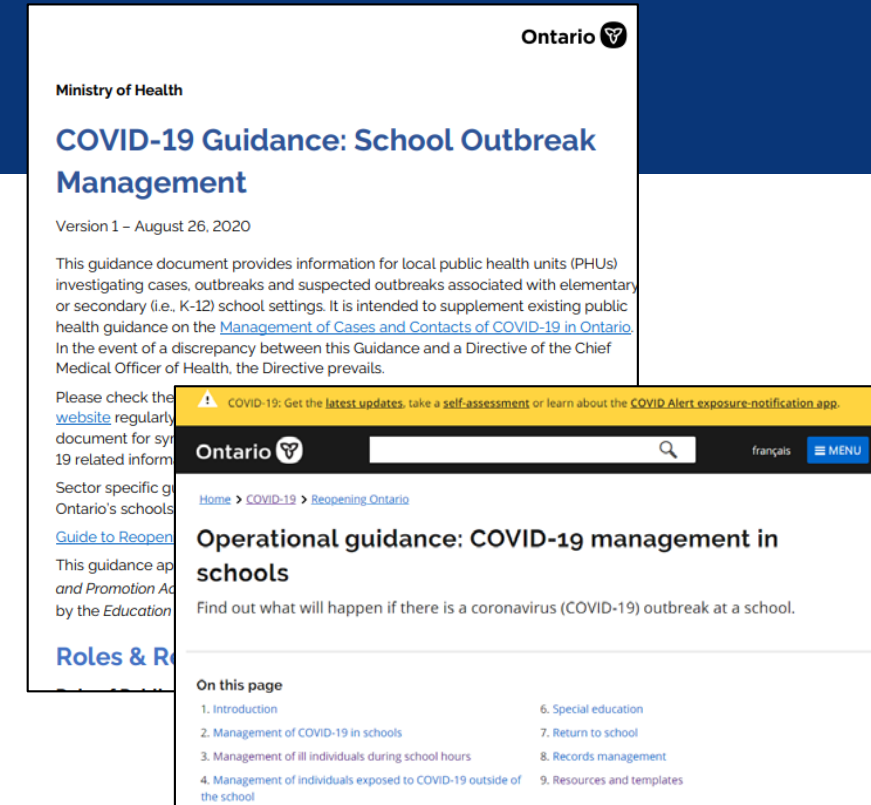
416-392-7411
Monday to Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Or go to our website and fill
out the [Reportable Disease
Notification Form](#) and fax it
to 416-392-0047.

After Hours, call 311.

The steps in case and contact management for schools

1. All students and staff determined to be at high risk of exposure will be directed to isolate and recommended to be tested
2. School boards will post if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 that involves a student or staff
3. TPH will work closely with schools to determine who a case was in contact with in the school environment
4. If a school is dismissed due to widespread transmission, consideration can be given to recommend all school attendees be tested



- 1 [COVID-19 Guidance: School Outbreak Management](#)
- 2 [Operational Guidance: COVID-19 Management in Schools](#)

Outbreak in a school: defined as **two or more confirmed cases**, with an epidemiological link, within a 14-day period, where at least one case could have reasonably acquired their infection in the school

Resource: TPH COVID-19 School Protocol



COVID-19 SCHOOL PROTOCOL

What parents need to know when someone tests positive for COVID-19 in their child's school or class cohort (designated group).



NOTIFICATION

Parents will be notified by Toronto Public Health if there is a positive case in the school. The identity of the person who tested positive for COVID-19 will not be shared as this is personal health information. It is important to remember that not all students are at-risk if there is a positive case in the school. The main concern is for close contacts of the person who has COVID-19.



CONTACT TRACING

Toronto Public Health will follow up with the person who tested positive to find out where they may have gotten the infection, and who they may have exposed to the virus. We will work with the school, to find out who they were in contact with at the school while they were contagious. When a person with COVID-19 is first identified, all students in the same class cohort will likely be told to self-isolate at home. This may change as Toronto Public Health finds out more information through the investigation.

If the source of the infection was outside of the school, and the person was not contagious while they were at school, then the class cohort will not need to self-isolate.



SELF-MONITORING AND SELF-ISOLATION

If someone was contagious while at school, all students who are identified by Toronto Public Health as close contacts of that person will be instructed to:

- Stay home and self-isolate for 14 days.
- Monitor for symptoms of COVID-19.
- Get tested if symptoms develop or as directed by Toronto Public Health.

As Toronto Public Health completes the investigation, if it is determined that students or staff did not have close contact with the person who had COVID-19, they will be allowed to return the classroom.

Other students in the school should also monitor for symptoms if there is a positive case in a school. But if they have not been told by Toronto Public Health that they are a close contact, they do not need to self-isolate.



COVID-19 SCHOOL PROTOCOL

What parents need to know when someone tests positive for COVID-19 in their child's school or class cohort (designated group).



SAFE RETURN TO SCHOOL

Toronto Public Health will advise students who have been asked to self-isolate when they can return to school.



DECLARING AN OUTBREAK

Toronto Public Health is responsible for declaring an outbreak, and for providing directions during an outbreak. An outbreak is two or more positive COVID-19 cases in a school, within a 14-day period, with at least one infection traced back to the school environment. This may include transportation to and from school, or before and after school care. An outbreak can be declared for a class, grade or school.



MORE INFORMATION

For more information about COVID-19, visit our website at toronto.ca/COVID19 or call us at **416-338-7600**.

TPH COVID-19 School Response

Congregate Settings Team – School Case and Contact and
Outbreak Management

COVID-19 Liaison Team – COVID-19 School Liaison Team

COVID-19 Hotline - 416-338-7600

TPH COVID-19 School Response Plan

Recommends:

- Infection control
- training
- sick policies, screening, attendance reporting
- cohorts, physical distancing
- hand hygiene, food and drink changes, etc.



Revised September 10, 2020

COVID-19 Guidance for Re-Opening Schools JK to Grade 12

The following recommendations are intended to help JK to Grade 12 schools reduce the spread of COVID-19. It is based on provincial Ministry of Education guidelines. As each site will be different, it is ultimately the responsibility of every school to review their own policies, procedures and site-specific circumstances, and assess their ability to operate while ensuring that the appropriate infection prevention and control (IPAC) measures are implemented and maintained.

For publicly-funded schools (i.e. Toronto District School Board (TDSB), Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB), CS Viamonde, and CS Mon Avenir, where there is a difference between this guidance document and your school board's re-opening plan and internal policies and procedures, your school board's plan should take precedence.

Updated information about COVID-19 can be found in Toronto Public Health's [COVID-19 Fact Sheet](#).

Recommendations for schools to reduce the spread of COVID-19

Before Re-Opening

The Ministry of Education has released a [Guide to Re-opening Ontario's Schools](#). The guidance and requirements outlined in this document build on the guidance released by the Ministry on June 19, 2020, and will be re-evaluated regularly, and updated as needed, based on public health advice.

The current community spread of COVID-19 requires schools to prepare a range of delivery circumstances for the 2020-21 school year, including full re-opening with public health measures in place, voluntary learn-at-home options, and full remote delivery. There is also an adapted delivery model (i.e. small cohorts, in-class attending on alternate days) should public health conditions require them. Toronto English secondary school boards will open on an adaptive model (i.e. Toronto District School Board (TDSB), Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB)). Designated school boards will be given notice to move to conventional delivery when it is determined safe to do so. Non-publicly funded schools should plan for reopening in the safest way possible.

Develop/update IPAC policies and procedures

- Develop and/or update administrative and IPAC policies and procedures to include mitigation measures to help reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- COVID-19-related policies and procedures must address the following topics:
 - Screening
 - Attendance reporting
 - Cohorting staff and students, including the use of supply teachers
 - Guests/volunteers in school setting
 - Transportation of students (i.e. school buses)

Resources for parents: What to do if your child has symptoms



WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS



If your child has one or more (new or worsening) [symptoms of COVID-19](#), they should stay at home, self-isolate, and get tested. Call your child's school to let them know that your child has COVID-19 symptoms.



HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS SHOULD SELF-MONITOR FOR SYMPTOMS

Household members should monitor for symptoms for 14 days. They can go to school or work if they do not have symptoms and the child with symptoms has not tested positive for COVID-19. This includes while you are waiting for the test results. If the child has symptoms and was a close contact of someone who had COVID-19 then household members should stay home and self-isolate.



GET TESTED

Contact your child's health care provider if you have questions about testing. Find an [Assessment Centre](#) near you to get tested. Children can often get a throat swab or swab at the tip of the nose so it is more comfortable than a deep nasal swab.

When going to an assessment centre, don't use public transit. Drive your child if you can, ask for a ride, or use a taxi or ride share. Wear a mask, sit in the back seat, and keep the windows open.



CHECK YOUR CHILD'S TEST RESULTS

You can check your test results at covid-19.ontario.ca by clicking on "check your lab results." Results can take a few days.

If your child TESTS NEGATIVE for COVID-19:

- Your child may return to school after they have no symptoms for 24 hours.
- Young children may have ongoing mild symptoms, such as a runny nose. If it is not new or worse, they may go back to school if they don't have other symptoms.

If your child TESTS POSITIVE for COVID-19:

- Your child must stay home and self-isolate for 14 days from the day the symptoms started.
- Household members and close contacts must also self-isolate for 14 days.
- Let your school know that your child tested positive for COVID-19.
- Toronto Public Health will contact you to do an investigation and with further instructions.



WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS



NOT TESTED

If your child has COVID-19 symptoms and did not have a COVID-19 test, they must stay home and self-isolate for 14 days from the day the symptoms started. Even if their symptoms get better sooner, they will need to stay home for 14 days. Household members will continue to self-monitor for 14 days. Household members can continue to attend school or work as long as they do not have any symptoms.



SICK FOR OTHER REASONS

Sometimes children are sick for other reasons. If your health care provider has ruled out COVID-19, your child may return to school once they are free of all symptoms for 24 hours.



HAVE QUESTIONS?

Please contact Toronto Public Health at 416-338-7600.

Successful and Ongoing Provincial Advocacy

- On June 19, the Government of Ontario released its safety plan for the resumption of class for the 2020-21 school year.
- **On July 26, 2020, Toronto Public Health submitted a letter to the Ministry of Health outlining guidance for reopening schools.**
- On July 30, the Government of Ontario released further plans for the safe re-opening of schools in September Opens in new window.

- On August 10, Toronto Public Health submitted a second letter to the Ministry of Health recommending additional measures for school reopening
- Consistent with our recommendation, and as approved by the Ministry of Education, Toronto schools delayed and staggered school reopening for TDSB, TDCSB and Independent schools

TPH continues to advocate to the province on the following recommendations:

1. Recommend all classes (or cohort) sizes be limited to allow for 2 metre distancing.
2. Recommend that a saliva-based test be actively considered as a pilot project that can be scaled-up, as needed.
3. Recommend that a protocol be developed to indicate when school reopening should be adjusted to adaptive models (e.g., half day in-school, half day online) and when school should be moved fully online, with consideration for keeping the most vulnerable in school regardless of community transmission.
4. Recommend the Province require implementation of active screening at all schools.

Resources to Support Safe Reopening of Schools

1. Provincial Guidance for Schools reopening: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/operational-guidance-covid-19-management-schools>
2. Provincial website for School Screening: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening>
3. Provincial website for cases in schools: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-cases-schools-and-child-care-centres>
4. TPH Guidance for Schools Reopening: <https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/covid-19-reopening-recovery-rebuild/covid-19-reopening-guidelines-for-businesses-organizations/covid-19-guidance-elementary-secondary-schools/>
5. TPH COVID-19 School Protocol: <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/9061-Covid-19-School-Protocol-Fact-Sheet.pdf>
6. What to do if your child has symptoms: <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/901a-What-to-do-if-your-child-has-Covid-19-Symptoms.pdf>