

Purpose

This protocol outlines how staff should screen families using the [COVID-19 Screening Tool for Homelessness Service Settings](#)

Referral for COVID-19 Testing

If any member of a family living together at the shelter site presents symptoms, the whole family should be referred to the Toronto Region COVID-19 Assessment Centre for testing.

- Symptomatic minor dependent child(ren) must be accompanied by a parent/guardian to the Toronto Region COVID-19 Assessment Centre for testing, whether or not the parent/guardian has symptoms.
- All minor dependent child(ren) should accompany their symptomatic parent/guardian to the Toronto Region COVID-19 Assessment Centre for testing, whether or not the child(ren) has symptoms.
- If there is a second parent/guardian who is not symptomatic and dependent child(ren) who are not symptomatic, it is advised that they remain together as a family unit and go all go for testing.
- If non-symptomatic family members decide to remain at the shelter site while the symptomatic parent goes for testing, non-symptomatic family members should self-isolate at the shelter site and continue to monitor for health changes and symptoms for 14 days.
- If self-isolation is not possible at the shelter site (i.e. due to space limitations), please contact the SSHA DOC or Central Intake to identify a referral where self-isolation may be possible.
- Babysitting and childminding policies are **not** to be used in cases where parent/guardian is being referred to Toronto Region COVID-19 Assessment Centre for testing.

Self-Isolation while Awaiting Test Results

Family members who are referred for testing will go to the Isolation Site or separate space to isolate while awaiting test results. The family should isolate together until results of the test are known.

Test Results

- If all members of the family test negative for COVID-19, the family can return to referring shelter program.
- If a family member has tested positive for COVID-19, the family should isolate in a separate room or recovery centre. Child(ren) should stay with the parent/guardian where possible.
- If any non-symptomatic family members are still at the shelter site in self-isolation, **they should be referred for testing at a Toronto Region COVID-19 Assessment Centre** because they have had close contact with a confirmed positive COVID-19 case. Please follow the instructions in the *COVID-19 Screening Tool for Homelessness Services Settings* and *Instructions for Arranging Non-Emergency Transportation to COVID-19 Assessment Centres*.

COVID-19 SCREENING PROTOCOL FOR FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN

Shelter, Support and Housing Administration
Current as of March 30, 2020

- If parent/guardian is too ill to supervise their child(ren) while in recovery, the parent/guardian should arrange for a family member(s) or other adult aged 18+ who is able to care for the child(ren).
- If there are no family member(s) and/or friends(s) who may be able to care for the child(ren), staff should contact Children's Aid Society to arrange for temporary care of the child(ren) while the parent recovers.

Medical Emergency

In the case of a medical emergency where 911 has been called and the parent/guardian is too ill to make arrangements for their child(ren), Children's Aid Society should be called and an urgent response should be requested. Alternatively, the child(ren) should go with paramedics.

Note: Minor children cannot be left at shelter site without parent/guardian supervision during COVID-19 pandemic. Staff cannot assume this responsibility.

Issues/Support

Shift Leads should contact the SSHA DOC at sshadoc@toronto.ca if there are any concerns or questions.