

# COVID-19 Decision Tool for School Students

For elementary and secondary students (JK-Grade 12)

Version 3.2. Updated February 23, 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, 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 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, self-isolate.

### **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, 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
- The children and adults in the household that attend a school must self-isolate and can return to school after 14 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.
- All household contacts 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 and is not a close contact of a positive case**

- 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 self-isolate for 14 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 self-isolate 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*.