COVID-19 Decision Tool for Schools
For elementary and secondary students (JK-Grade 12)
Version 3.1. Updated on December 4, 2020

Updated COVID-19 screening for symptoms:
All students must complete a self-screening questionnaire before going to school. Students with chronic health issues that is medically diagnosed and unrelated to COVID-19, should look for new, different or worsening symptoms.

Does the student have the following symptoms (even if it is mild):

- 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

Student should be excluded from school, under the following conditions:

(A) If the student has one or more symptoms, even if it is mild, the student should stay home, self-isolate, get tested or contact their health care provider.

(B) If the student's siblings, or children in the same 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, 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.

(D) 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 do not have a sibling with symptoms (B), or they are not a close contact (C) or have travelled outside of Canada (D).

siblings or children in same household without symptoms
- If the student has symptoms and has an alternative diagnosis, siblings do not need to self-isolate.
- If the student has symptoms and tests negative for COVID-19, the student and siblings can return to school.
- If the student has symptoms, does not go for testing and is not a close contact of a positive case, the student and siblings must self-isolate for 10 days.
- If the student has symptoms, does not go for testing and is a close contact of a positive case, the student must self-isolate for 10 days from when symptoms started. Their siblings should self-isolate for 14 days as this is how long it can take for symptoms to appear.
- If the student has symptoms and tests positive, the student must self-isolate for 10 days, and siblings must self-isolate for 14 days.
Students with symptoms

- If a student has any new or worsening symptoms, he/she must stay home, self-isolate, and get tested or contact their health care provider.
- The student’s siblings will also need to stay home and self-isolate.
- Adults in the home, including parents, will have to self-monitor for symptoms, but may go to work as long as the adult does not have symptoms and the student is not a close contact of someone with COVID-19 and the student has not tested positive.

Students who test positive for COVID-19

- Student must stay home and self-isolate for 10 days, starting from the day the symptoms first appear.
- 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.
- Students without symptoms still have to stay home and self-isolate for 10 days, from the day of the test.
- All their household members should stay home, self-isolate and follow public health advice.

Students who test negative for COVID-19

- Students may 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 or have travelled outside of Canada.

Students with an alternative medical diagnosis who are not tested for COVID-19

- Students with symptoms, but who 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.
- Family members without symptoms should self-monitor and may go to school or work.
- A cold or respiratory infection is not considered an alternative diagnosis, and the individual should be tested for COVID-19.

Students not tested for COVID-19

- If a student has symptoms of COVID-19 that are not related to an existing medical condition and they are not tested, the student and their siblings must stay home and self-isolate for 10 days from the date their symptom(s) first started.
- Student 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 in close contact with 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 to that person.

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.