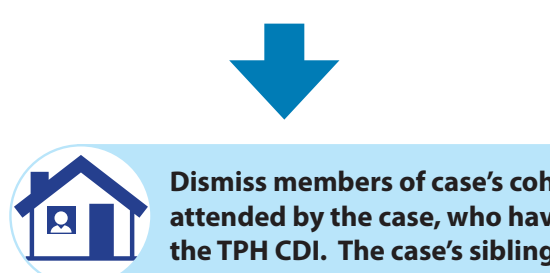
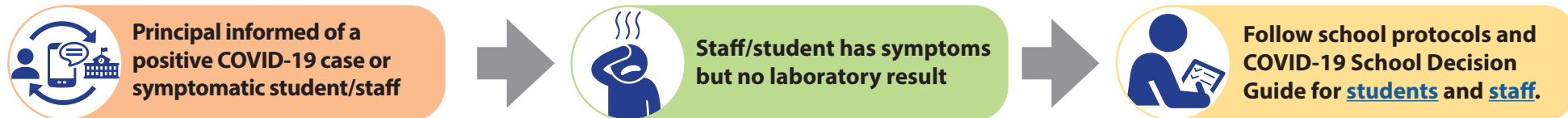


TORONTO PUBLIC HEALTH'S (TPH) COVID-19 DECISION GUIDE FOR PRINCIPALS TO DISMISS COHORTS TO SELF-ISOLATE

This tool is to be used by Principals to assist in making a decision to dismiss a case's cohort(s) for self-isolation (e.g., classroom, bus, extracurricular activities, before/after school programs attended by the case) while awaiting the results of the TPH Investigation. TPH will investigate all positive cases related to a school and notify their close contacts in a school through a letter. The Communicable Disease Investigator (CDI) will contact the Principal and advise of next steps. If the Principal has any questions while they await for the CDI to contact them, they can contact their TPH COVID-19 [School Liaison Nurse](#). If they are unable to reach their nurse, they can contact our Hotline at 416-338-7600. Please see the TPH [COVID-19 School Contact List](#) for more details.



*Please Note:

- Principals will dismiss a cohort with a positive COVID-19 laboratory confirmed test result. **Do not report or dismiss a cohort with a positive antigen test result.** If rapid antigen test results are positive, the individual must self-isolate at home and arrange for a PCR test within 24 hours. If the results of the PCR test are positive for COVID-19 this must be reported and follow the steps in this tool.
- Principals will not ask other staff or students potentially exposed to the positive case outside of the cohort(s) to self-isolate. They will await direction from TPH CDI. If the individual is symptomatic or a close contact of a positive case follow school protocols and the COVID-19 School Decision Guide for [students](#) and [staff](#).
- If the individual with COVID-19 is a staff member that goes to multiple schools (i.e. an itinerant worker) or multiple classes/cohort(s) the Principal will flag this for TPH, and await the direction of the TPH CDI.
- The Principal should maintain a list of COVID-19 vaccination information of staff/students. This should be voluntarily disclosed by the student. Collection of staff vaccination information should follow school policy. Please see [TPH's COVID-19 Guidance for Schools: Collecting and Using COVID-19 Vaccination Status to Assist with Interim Cohort Dismissals](#). This list is confidential and the principal or designate should only use this information as required to dismiss students/staff that are part of affected cohorts who are not fully vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine*. Students/staff who are fully vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine and do not have a symptom(s) of COVID-19, do not need to be dismissed unless directed otherwise by TPH. TPH will complete an investigation of the case and their cohorts. Return to school of individuals may be permitted at the discretion of the TPH CDI based on assessment of the investigation. Individuals who were previously positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days or less and have been cleared by public health may be permitted to return to school. TPH will provide this direction to these previously positive for COVID-19 close contacts.
- *Fully vaccinated is defined as an individual ≥ 14 days after receiving their second dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or a single dose of a one-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or as defined by the [Ontario Ministry of Health](#).

Sept 24, 2021