



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. Toronto Public Health 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.



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PRINCIPAL CAN DISMISS COHORTS

While awaiting Toronto Public Health's investigation, principals can dismiss a class, bus or before/after school cohort if the person who has COVID-19 was at school while they were contagious. Once the investigation has been completed, Toronto Public Health may allow some of those cohorts back to school if the risk to the cohorts is low.



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**.