Effective October 1st, the provincial Ministry of Health has updated COVID-19 symptom screening. Screening is now divided into two groups of symptoms:

1. Symptoms

- Fever > 37.8°C
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Loss of taste or smell

2. Symptoms

- Sore throat, painful swallowing
- Stuffy/runny nose
- Headache
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- Feeling unwell, muscle aches, tired

Daily Self-Screening for Children Attending Child Care

Parents/guardians must complete a daily self-screening questionnaire for their child before attending the child care setting. Children with chronic symptoms due to a medically diagnosed condition other than COVID-19, should look for new, different or worsening symptoms.

In most scenarios, children may be excluded from care:

(A) If the child has been in close contact with a person who has COVID-19, the child will need to self-isolate for 14 days, even if they don’t have symptoms. If the child has or develops symptoms, their household members will need to stay home and self-isolate until COVID-19 is ruled out.

(B) If the child 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.

Children without symptoms

If a child does not have symptoms of COVID-19 he/she may attend the child care setting if they are not a close contact (A) or have travelled outside of Canada (B).

Children with symptoms

1. If a child has any new or worsening symptoms of [fever, cough, difficulty breathing or loss of taste/smell]: The child must stay home, self-isolate, and get tested for COVID-19 or contact their health care provider. Household members will have to self-monitor for symptoms. They may go to school or work if they don’t have symptoms, and the child is not a close contact of someone with COVID-19 (A).

2. If a child has ONE of the following symptoms of [sore throat, stuffy/runny nose, headache, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, muscle ache/fatigue]: The child must stay home for 24 hours. If the symptom is improving, they can return to care 24 hours later. Testing is not needed. If the symptom is not improving after 24 hours or is getting worse, the child should stay home, self-isolate and get tested or contact their health care provider.

3. If a child has TWO of the following symptoms of [sore throat, stuffy/runny nose, headache, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, muscle ache/fatigue]: The child must stay home, self-isolate for 10 days, and get tested or contact their health care provider.
Children with a Laboratory Confirmed Positive COVID-19 Test

- Children must stay home and self-isolate for 10 days from the day the symptoms first appear. They may return to child care 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.
- Children without symptoms must stay home and self-isolate for 10 days, from the day the test was done.
- Family members/household contacts of the child who test positive should self-isolate and follow public health advice.

Children with Negative Test

Children can return to child care if their symptoms have been improving for 24 hours, they are well enough to participate in program activities, and they pass screening (i.e. if they are not a close contact of someone with COVID-19 (A) or have travelled outside of Canada (B)).

Children who are not tested – Alternative diagnosis

- Children with an alternative diagnosis from a health care provider that is not related to COVID-19 can return to the child care setting once their symptoms have been improving for 24 hours. Family members without symptoms, should self-monitor, and can go back to school or work.

Children who are not tested for COVID-19

- For children who do not go for testing and do not have an alternative diagnosis (i.e. a new or worsening symptom not related to an existing medical condition), if they have:
  - ONE of the following symptoms: fever, cough, difficulty breathing or loss of taste/smell.
  - ONE of the following symptoms that does not improve in 24 hours: sore throat, stuffy/runny nose, headache, nausea/ vomiting/diarrhea, muscle ache/fatigue.
  - TWO of the following symptoms: sore throat, stuffy/runny nose, headache, nausea/ vomiting/diarrhea, muscle ache/fatigue.
- The child must self-isolate for 10 days from the date their symptom(s) first appear. They may return to the child care setting after 10 days if they do not have a fever (without taking medication), and their symptoms are improving for 24 hours.

Children who are close contacts of someone with COVID-19

- Children in close contact with a person with COVID-19 must stay home and self-isolate for 14 days from their last date of exposure.

Return to Child Care Confirmation Form

- Parents can complete a Returning to Child Care Confirmation Form to provide to the child care operator/supervisor to confirm the child is well and able to return to the child care setting.
- Toronto Public Health is not recommending or requiring medical notes for a child to return to the child care setting.