

COVID-19 DECISION TOOL FOR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

Please use this document if your child has failed their daily COVID-19 school and child care screening at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

Determine which scenario fits your child's situation and follow the guidelines below accordingly.

SCENARIO 1

COURSE OF ACTION

Your child develops any **NEW** symptoms including: fever/chills (>37.8°C/100°F), cough, difficulty breathing, loss of taste/smell, **AND/OR**
Your child develops **TWO OR MORE** of the following symptoms: sore throat, stuffy/runny nose, headache, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, muscle ache/fatigue



Your child must stay home. If symptoms develop while at school/child care, they will be sent home.

WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

- Your child should stay home and self-isolate.
 - Your child should get tested at an assessment centre **OR**
 - Contact your health care provider for further assessment if you think your child's symptoms are not due to COVID-19.
Note: Health Care Providers are unlikely to be able to rule out COVID-19 without a test. **OR**
- If your child will not be tested, they must isolate for 10 days after symptoms first appear.
- Note:** Your child needs to isolate away from other household members while waiting for direction from their healthcare provider and/or waiting for test results. One consistent caregiver must isolate with the ill child.

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL/CHILD CARE?

If your child has a **POSITIVE** COVID-19 test:

- Your local Public Health Unit will contact you with further direction.
- Your child must stay home and self-isolate for 10 days from the day the symptoms first appear. They may return to school/child care after 10 days if they do not have a fever (without using medication), **AND** they have been symptom-free for 24 hours.
- All members of the household need to self-isolate and follow public health advice.

If your child has a **NEGATIVE** COVID-19 test:

- Your child can go back to school/child care if they have been symptom-free for 24 hours **AND** if they are not a close contact* of someone with COVID-19.
- Household members without symptoms should self-monitor and may go to school/child care or work.

If your child is **NOT** tested for COVID-19 but has an alternative diagnosis unrelated to COVID-19:

- Your child can go back to school/child care if they have been symptom-free for 24 hours.
- Household members without symptoms should self-monitor and may go to school/child care or work.

If your child is **NOT** tested for COVID-19 and has no alternative diagnosis:

- Your child needs to self-isolate for 10 days from the day symptoms started. Your child may return to school/child care after 10 days if they do not have a fever (without using medication) **AND** they have been symptom-free for 24 hours.
- All members of your household need to stay home and self-isolate for 14 days from when your child developed symptoms.

SCENARIO 2

COURSE OF ACTION

Your child develops **ONE** of the following symptoms: sore throat, stuffy/runny nose, headache, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, muscle ache/fatigue



Your child must stay home. If symptoms develop while at school/child care, they will be sent home.

WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

- Your child should stay home and self-isolate.

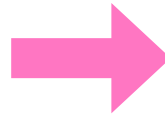
WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL/CHILD CARE?

- Your child must stay home for 24 hours.
- If the symptom is improving, they can return to school/child care 24 hours later. Testing is not needed.
- If the symptom is not improving after 24 hours or is getting worse, your child should stay home, self-isolate and get tested. You can also contact their health care provider for an assessment.

SCENARIO 3

COURSE OF ACTION

Your child is a **CLOSE CONTACT*** of someone with COVID-19 (confirmed by Public Health)



Your child must not attend school/child care and they are required to self-isolate for 14 days.

WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

- You can expect a call from the public health unit to provide you with next steps and further information.

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL/CHILD CARE?

- Your child can return once the self-isolation period determined by public health has been completed AND they do not have any symptoms.
- If your child is tested and is negative, they must still complete their 14-day self-isolation before returning to school/child care.

*A close contact is someone who has spent greater than 15 minutes within 2m of someone else who tested positive for COVID-19, regardless of whether either party was wearing a non-medical mask.

SCENARIO 4

COURSE OF ACTION

Child has travelled outside of Canada



Your child must not attend school/child care and they are required to self-isolate for 14 days.

WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

- The 14 day quarantine begins on the day your child returns to Canada.
- If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 while quarantining after travel, testing should be done at an assessment centre or consult with a health care provider if you think symptoms are not due to COVID-19.
- Your child must self-isolate from household members that did not travel. If they do not or cannot, all other household members must also self-isolate.

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL/CHILD CARE?

- Your child can return once the 14-day self-isolation has been completed AND they do not have any symptoms.

Local COVID-19 Testing and Assessment Sites:

- Norfolk General Hospital (Simcoe) – 519-426-0130 ext. 2234
- Haldimand War Memorial Hospital (Dunnville) – 905-774-7431 ext. 1000
- West Haldimand General Hospital (Hagersville) – 905-768-3311 ext. 1113

Or visit <https://COVID-19.ontario.ca/assessment-centre-locations/>

For additional information and resources regarding the reopening of schools, please visit <https://hnhu.org/health-topic/back-to-school/> or call the HNHU's COVID-19 line at 519-426-6170 ext. 9999.

For additional information and resources regarding the reopening of child care centres, please call the Environmental Health Team at 519-426-6170 ext. 3231 or visit <https://hnhu.org/health-topics/covid-19/>.

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