

# COVID-19 DECISION TOOL FOR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

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

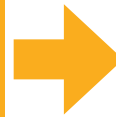
Determine which scenario fits your child's situation and follow the guidelines below accordingly.

## SCENARIO 1

## COURSE OF ACTION

Your child is experiencing any new or worsening symptoms including:

- fever/chills (>37.8°C/100°F)
- cough
- shortness of breath
- decrease or loss of taste or smell
- sore throat or difficulty swallowing
- runny or stuffy/congested nose
- headache
- nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea
- extreme tiredness or muscle aches



Do not send your child or any of their siblings to school/childcare. If symptoms develop while at school/child care, they will be sent home.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

1. Your child and all of your household members must stay home and isolate.
2. Your child should get tested at a COVID-19 assessment centre **OR**  
Contact your health care provider for further assessment if

you think your child's symptoms are not due to COVID-19.  
**OR**  
If your child will not be tested, and has no alternative diagnosis, they must isolate for 10 days after symptoms first appear.

## WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL/CHILDCARE?

Your child cannot return to school/childcare until **ONE** of the following has happened:

1. **Your child has received a negative COVID-19 test result**  
Note: All members living in the same household must self-isolate while awaiting your child's COVID-19 test results.
2. **Your child has received an alternative diagnosis from a health care provider**
3. **It has been 10 days since your child's symptoms began AND they have been symptom-free for at least 24 hours**

**Note:** All household contacts of your child are required to isolate until your child receives a negative COVID-19 test result or an alternative diagnosis from a healthcare provider. If your child is not tested and does not receive an alternative diagnosis, all household contacts must isolate for 14 days from the last date of contact with your child. If there is no break in contact, household contacts must isolate for an additional 14 days from the end of your child's 10 day isolation period.

## SCENARIO 2

## COURSE OF ACTION

Your child is a **CLOSE CONTACT\*** of someone with COVID-19 (confirmed by Public Health), but your child does not have any COVID-19 symptoms.



Do not send your child to school/child care.

### WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

1. Your child must stay home and isolate for 14 days from the last date they were exposed to the COVID-19 case.
2. Other household members are required to stay home for the duration of your child's isolation period except for essential reasons.
  - Essential reasons include: attending work, school, childcare and essential errands such as groceries, getting a COVID-19 test, seeking medical attention or picking up prescriptions.
3. You can expect a call from the public health unit to provide you with next steps and further information.
  - Household members are not to leave home for activities such as sports, clubs, retail shopping, religious services, etc. Household members must also not visit with friends or family members that do not live in the household.

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

### WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL/CHILDCARE?

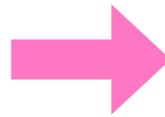
Your child can return once the 14-day self-isolation has been completed AND they have been symptom-free for at least 24 hours.

If your child is tested and receives a negative result they must still complete their 14-day self-isolation before returning to school/child care.

## SCENARIO 3

## COURSE OF ACTION

Your child lives in a household with someone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms



Do not send your child or any of their siblings to school/childcare.

### WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

Your child, and all other household members, must stay home and isolate until the symptomatic household member receives a negative COVID-19 test result OR an alternative diagnosis from a health care provider.

### WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL/CHILDCARE?

Your child can return to school once the symptomatic household member receives a negative COVID-19 test result or an alternative diagnosis from a healthcare provider.

If the symptomatic household member does not seek COVID-19 testing, all household members must isolate for 14 days from the last date of contact with the symptomatic individual. If the household members have all been isolating together for the duration of the symptomatic person's 10 day isolation, then the 14 day isolation period would begin at the end of that individual's 10 day isolation period.

## SCENARIO 4

## COURSE OF ACTION

Your child has travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days.



Your child must not attend school/child care as they are required to self-isolate for 14 days upon return to Canada.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

Your child must self-isolate away from household members that did not travel. If they do not or cannot, all other household members must also self-isolate.

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.

## WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL/CHILDCARE?

Your child can return to school/childcare once their 14 day isolation period has been completed AND they have been symptom-free for at least 24 hours.

### 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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Adapted with permission from Toronto Public Health