

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.

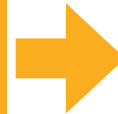
SCENARIO 1

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
- nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea

If your child is experiencing symptoms not included in this list, please keep them home until symptoms are improving for 24hrs. If additional symptoms occur or symptoms worse, your child may be required to receive a COVID-19 test or seek alternate diagnosis from a healthcare provider prior to returning to school



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 symptoms improving for 24 hours (48 hours for gastrointestinal symptoms)**

Note: All unvaccinated household contacts of your child are required to isolate until your child receive a negative COVID-19 test results or alternative diagnosis from a healthcare provider. If you child is not tested and does not receive an alternative diagnosis, all unvaccinated household contacts must isolate for 10 days from the last date of contact with your child. If there is no break in contact, unvaccinated household contacts must isolate for an additional 10 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 10 days from the last date they were exposed to the COVID-19 case. Your child may be exempt from isolation if he/she is fully vaccinated. PH will notify you if your child is exempt.
2. Other household members are required to stay home for the duration of your child's isolation period except for essential reasons. Exemptions apply for fully vaccinated, asymptomatic household members.
 - 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 or email notification 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 cumulative 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?

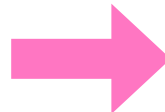
Your child can return once the 10-day self-isolation has been completed AND they have been symptom-improving for at least 24 hours (48 hours for gastrointestinal symptoms).

If your child is tested and receives a negative result they must still complete their 10-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?

All unvaccinated members of the household must stay home until the symptomatic household member receives a negative COVID-19 test 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 to seek testing, all unvaccinated household contacts of your child are required to isolate until your child receive a negative COVID-19 test results or alternative diagnosis from a healthcare provider. If you child is not tested and does not receive an alternative diagnosis, all unvaccinated household contacts must isolate for 10 days from the last date of contact with your child. If there is no break in contact, unvaccinated household contacts must isolate for an additional 10 days from the end of your child'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. Please follow federal guidelines for isolation. <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid>

WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

1. Contact the school/child care to advise them of the travel
2. If they were told to quarantine: they must isolate (stay home) for 14 days immediately after their return except for a medical emergency.

If they were not told to quarantine: follow the federal guidelines and instructions of the border agent when entering Canada, including not going to school/child care for 14 days

Others in the home are required to stay home except for essential reasons such as school, childcare or work. Exceptions apply for those who are fully vaccinated

Follow Provincial guidelines as applicable. 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. All unvaccinated members of the household must also stay home and isolate until test results return.

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL/CHILDCARE?

Your child can return to school/childcare once their 14 day isolation or monitoring 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