

# COVID-19 SCHOOL GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

## Conduct a Daily Screening

Screen your child for COVID-19 symptoms each morning before leaving for school or sending your child on a bus.

- Ontario's online school screening tool can be accessed at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

## What if my child develops COVID-19 symptoms?

### While at home:

- If your child is experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms it is critically important that your child stay home and **NOT** attend school.
- All household contacts will need to self-monitor.
- Your child should isolate (stay home) and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.

### While at school:

- If your child exhibits or develops any COVID-19 symptoms, your child will be brought to the school's designated isolation room and will be monitored by staff.
- The school will contact you and request that the child be picked up as soon as possible.
- Any other members of the same household will be advised to self-monitor for symptoms.
- Once home, your child should isolate (stay home) and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.

## What do I do next?

If your child is showing symptoms of COVID-19, you **do not** need to contact the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit to report the child's symptoms unless the child has had a high-risk exposure (for example: travel outside of Canada in the last 14 days or close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case).

Instead, parents/guardians of a symptomatic child have three options:

1. Have your child assessed by their primary health care provider to determine the cause of illness or if a COVID-19 test should be performed.

2. Arrange for a COVID-19 test for your child at a local testing site.
  - 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 [COVID-19.ontario.ca/assessment-centre-locations/](https://www.covid-19.ontario.ca/assessment-centre-locations/) for a list of other COVID-19 testing sites.
3. If you refuse options 1 or 2 then your child, and all members of the household, will have to isolate for 14 days.

#### Please note:

- If option 1 or 2 is selected, 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 student.
  - Any other household members who are asymptomatic may continue to attend school and/or work, but should self-monitor for symptoms and isolate away from the ill child and designated caregiver.
  - For instructions on how to self-isolate effectively, visit <https://bit.ly/2RUplg7>
- If your child **only has one** of the following symptoms; sore throat, stuffy/runny nose, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, fatigue/lethargy/malaise/muscle aches or headache, they need to stay home for 24 hours from the time the symptom started. If the symptom is improving, your child may return to school when they feel well enough to do so. A negative COVID-19 test is not required to return.
- If the ill child **has** had a high-risk exposure, members living in the same household also need to self-isolate.
- While the three options are available to parents, Public Health may advise testing if there are greater risks identified.

## When can my child return to school?

### If my child's COVID-19 test result is NEGATIVE

- If your child had a COVID-19 test and the results are negative, **AND** your child has not had a high-risk exposure as outlined above, your child can return to school once they have been symptom-free for 24 hours.

### If my child's COVID-19 test result is POSITIVE

- The Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit (HNHU) follows up with all positive COVID-19 cases. HNHU will contact you to determine next steps and isolation requirements.

### What if my child is not tested for COVID-19?

- If your child **only has one** of the following symptoms; sore throat, stuffy/runny nose, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, fatigue/lethargy/malaise/muscle aches or headache, they need to stay home for 24 hours from the time the symptom started. If the symptom is improving, your child may return to school when they feel well enough to do so. A negative COVID-19 test is not required to return.
- If your child has been assessed by their primary health care provider, and a COVID-19 test was not recommended, your child can return to school once they have been symptom-free for 24 hours. No doctor's note is needed.
- If your child was not assessed, and/or if a test was recommended but not administered, your child and all household members must stay isolated for 14 days. Your child can return to school after 14 days, as long as they have been symptom-free for 24 hours.

#### For further information:

For additional information and resources around the re-openings 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.

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