

COVID-19 Protocol for Individual with Symptoms

This protocol should be followed when a child/student, staff or visitor develops symptoms of COVID-19.

Last Revised: September 1, 2021

At Home

Complete appropriate provincial school screen for students/ children OR staff/visitors. Follow actions listed on screening tool.

If a child/student or staff/visitor is unable to attend school or child care due to COVID-19 symptoms: Parent/guardians or staff/visitor should:

- Stay home / Keep child/student home
- Report absence to school or childcare
- Ensure all household members self-isolate at home EXCEPT those who are symptom free AND fully vaccinated (2nd dose at least 14 days ago) or previously positive within the past 90 days
- Contact health care provider and/or book a COVID-19 test

School and/or child care is prepared to provide Local Public Health Unit (LPHU) with student/staff information in the event that a child, staff, or visitor is confirmed to have COVID-19

School should maintain accurate records of students, staff and visitors for the last 30 days including:

- Attendance records
- Class/cohort lists and seating charts
- Before/after school child care lists
- Transportation lists and seating charts
- Updated contact info for students/staff
- Special assignments/programs/activities (e.g. Special Education)
- Records of essential visitors

At School, Child Care or on Bus (upon arrival)

If a child/student develops **ONE or more new or worsening** symptom(s) that is not related to a diagnosed cause or condition including:

fever and/or chills, cough or barking cough (croup), shortness of breath, decrease or loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

Alert school staff designated to care for symptomatic student in isolation room and follow school protocol for caring for symptomatic individual ensuring the use of PPE

Contact parent/guardian for immediate pick up (including unvaccinated siblings)

* While a staff/visitor/student is waiting for COVID-19 test results, they must remain in self-isolation and cannot attend school/ child care in person.

All household members who are symptom free AND fully vaccinated (2nd dose at least 14 days ago) or previously positive within the past 90 days are not required to self-isolate. If they develop symptoms, they should isolate and seek testing.

If a school or child care staff/visitor develops **ONE or more new or worsening symptoms that include:**

fever and/or chills, cough or barking cough (croup), shortness of breath, decrease or loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea, muscle aches, joint pain, or extreme tiredness (not related to receiving a COVID-19 vaccine in the last 48 hours).

Symptomatic staff are to go home immediately

Provide parent/guardian or ill individual with [screening tool link](#) and refer to LPHU website. Advise the parent/guardian/student or staff/visitor to follow the actions listed on the daily screening tool and related protocols. The required actions may differ based on the nature of the symptoms and whether it is a child/student or adult (staff/visitor) who is experiencing the symptoms.



1-877-743-0101

www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca



1-800-841-2729 • www.durham.ca



1-866-888-4577

www.hkpr.on.ca

Caring for a Symptomatic Individual at School/Child Care

Alert school and/or child care staff designated to care for symptomatic child.

- Student/child is brought to the isolation room.
- If physical distancing cannot be maintained, staff caring for child uses PPE kit (gloves, masks, face shields and gown) to be put on before entering the room with the student.
- Student/child to wear medical mask as tolerated.
- Staff supervise student/child while maintaining physical distance, when possible.
- Follow school and/or child care protocol for PPE, cleaning and isolation room requirements.
- Student (and any siblings who are not fully vaccinated) are picked up immediately from school/child care.

Communication Regarding Next Steps

- Provide parent/guardian with appropriate information (e.g. appropriate student/child and/or staff/visitor screening tool and related protocols) and refer to Local Public Health Unit (LPHU) website for more information.
- Advise the individual to follow the actions listed on the daily screening tool and related protocols. The required actions may differ based on the nature of the symptoms and whether it is a child/student or adult (staff/visitor) who is experiencing the symptoms.
- Encourage the individual to share the results with the school and/or child care centre as soon as possible.
- Thank the individual for taking the necessary steps to protect the school/child care and larger community – we are all doing our part!

Communication Regarding Return to School or Child Care

The protocols for return to school and child care differ for children (i.e. students) and adults (i.e. staff and visitors). Please refer to the following LPHU resources for more information:

- My Child Did Not Pass the COVID-19 Daily Screening. Now What?
- COVID-19 Return to School or Child Care: Protocol for Employees/Visitors
- COVID-19 Return to School or Child Care: Protocol for Student/Child

Encouraging Follow through on Recommended Actions

We understand that it may be challenging for schools and child care centres to monitor and enforce the actions listed in the Provincial Screening Tools for students and/or staff/visitors, and in the return to care protocols for school and child care settings. Please contact your LPHU for further information, resources and support.

Medical documentation is not required to return to school or child care.