



Durham Region Health Department **Facts about...**



COVID-19 in the School

How will I know if there is a case of COVID-19 in the school?

A letter will be sent by the principal informing the school community about a case of COVID-19 in the school and notification will be posted on the school website.

How will I know if my child was exposed to COVID-19 at school?

The principal of the school will inform the case's cohort of the potential exposure of COVID-19, by notifying parents by phone, email or voice mail message letting them know that their child is being dismissed from school. All students in the same classroom, on the same school bus, attending the same extracurricular activities or before and after school programs are considered the cohort. This includes both elementary and secondary schools.

Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) will follow-up with each student in the cohort to conduct further assessment and provide recommendations for testing.

Why is my child being dismissed from school?

You child will be dismissed from school if your child was part of the case's cohort or otherwise identified as a high-risk contact. The cohort will be considered at **high risk** of exposure to COVID-19 and will be directed to self-isolate and be recommended for COVID-19 testing.

*If the case clearly contracted COVID-19 from someone outside the school **and** was not at the school while contagious, their cohort will not be required to self-isolate.

How long will my child be away from school?

You child will be required to self-isolate for 14 days from the last contact with the confirmed case, even if they test negative. If your child was tested and you do not have the results after the 14 days of isolation your child must remain on isolation until those results are available.

Do I need to isolate if my child is isolating?

If your child was identified as part of the cohort and was dismissed from school, they must self-isolate from others. You and the remaining members of your household should monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 but can go to work and school.

905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | durham.ca/health

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.



How will my child get tested?

Testing for the cohort will be arranged by DRHD as required. Health Department staff will call you to provide the date, time and location of the testing. You will need to provide your child's health card number for the testing. Please note only those students who are identified as a high-risk contact will be tested.

How can I prevent COVID-19?

- Physically distance from others by keeping 2 metres away as much as possible.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Clean your hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.
- After handling nose and throat secretions (e.g. throwing out used facial tissues), wash your hands.
- Cough and sneeze into a tissue or your sleeve.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Do not share water bottles, eating utensils, toothbrushes, toys or anything else that has been in contact with saliva, nose or throat secretions.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are high-touch areas.
- Avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as coughing and sneezing.
- Screen children daily before entry to child care centre.

Common COVID-19 symptoms include fever (temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), new or worsening cough and shortness of breath. Other symptoms of COVID-19 can include sore throat, difficulty swallowing, changes to sense of taste and/or smell, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain and runny nose, or nasal congestion (not caused by seasonal allergies).

Atypical symptoms of COVID-19 should be considered, particularly in children, older persons, and people living with a developmental disability. Atypical symptoms can include unexplained fatigue, body aches, delirium, unexplained or increased number of falls, acute functional decline, exacerbation of chronic conditions, chills, headaches, croup, conjunctivitis, and multisystem inflammatory vasculitis in children.

Symptoms of multisystem inflammatory vasculitis in children may include persistent fever, abdominal pain, conjunctivitis, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and rash.

If you have questions or you suspect your child/children have COVID-19 please call Durham Health Connection Line at 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729.

For more information about COVID-19 please visit www.durham.ca/novelcoronavirus

October 13, 2020

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