

# 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: March 2, 2021

## At Home

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

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

- Report absence to school/childcare
- Ensure all household members quarantine at home (siblings & caregivers)
- Refer to My Child did Not Pass COVID-19 Screening protocol

If a staff or visitor is unable to attend school or child care due to COVID-19 symptoms, they should:

- Stay home and isolate
- Report absence to school
- Ensure all household members quarantine at home (siblings & caregivers)
- Contact health care provider and/or book a COVID-19 test.

School and/or child care is prepared to provide 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 & seating charts
- Updated contact info for students/staff
- Special assignments/programs/activities (e.g. Special Education)
- Records of essential visitors

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

If a child/student develops **ONE or more new or worsening** symptom(s) that include: fever and/or chills, cough or barking cough (croup), 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 (not related to a diagnosed cause or condition)

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

Contact parent/guardian for immediate pick-up

**NOTE:** All household members of symptomatic individuals are required to quarantine until the symptomatic individual receives a negative COVID-19 test result, is cleared by public health, or is diagnosed with another illness by a health care professional. If the symptomatic individual does not seek COVID-19 testing, all household contacts must quarantine for 14 days from their last contact with that symptomatic individual.

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, sore throat, difficulty swallowing, runny or stuffy/congested nose, pink eye, headache, digestive issues like nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain, muscle aches, extreme tiredness

Symptomatic staff are to go home immediately

Provide parent/guardian/student 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.



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## Caring for a Symptomatic Individual at School / Child Care

- Alert school and/or child care staff designated to care for symptomatic students.
- Student and siblings are brought to the isolation room.
- If physical distancing cannot be maintained, staff caring for student(s) uses PPE kit (gloves, masks, face shields and gown) to be put on before entering the room with the student(s)
- Student(s) to wear medical mask as tolerated.
- Staff supervise student while maintaining physical distance, when possible.
- Follow school and/or child care protocol for PPE, cleaning and isolation room requirements.

## Communication Regarding Next Steps

- Provide individual with appropriate information (e.g. appropriate student 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 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? (includes: When can my child return to school or child care?)
- COVID-19 Return to School or Child care: Protocol for Employees/Visitors

## 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 LPHU Screening Tools for students and/or staff/visitors, and in the return to school protocols for school and child care settings.

**Medical documentation is not required to return to school and/or child care centres.**

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