

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION: YORK REGION SCREENING AND TESTING UPDATES

Friday October 15, 2021

With the support of the COVID 19 vaccine and other public health measures, everyone has been worked together to help keep our schools and child cares safe and we are greatly appreciative of your collective efforts.

It remains critically important to continue to screen your children for symptoms each day to avoid bringing COVID-19 into the schools and child cares and to test them when required. Screening and testing help control the spread of COVID-19. Even if you or your child is fully vaccinated, you must continue with daily screening and testing if you or your child have one or more COVID-19 symptom.

## Screening update

To provide parents and guardians with more options to screen, including the ability to share results electronically and complete screening in multiple languages, **effective Monday, October 18, 2021** York Region Public Health will require students, parents and guardians to use the provincial [COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#).

The provincial screening tool was updated on Friday October 1, 2021 to **reiterate the need to stay home if you are sick with any COVID-19 symptoms**. This information was previously missing, suggesting children with mild symptoms like runny noses and sore throats were permitted to attend school. This change brings the provincial [COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#) in line with the York Region school and child care screening requirements.

Students, parents and guardians will still be able to access the [link to the tool](#) through the York Region [Staying Safe at School](#) webpage. All staff and students must self-screen for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 **every day** before attending school or child care. Even if you or your child is fully vaccinated, you must continue with daily screening and testing if you or your child have one or more COVID-19 symptom.

## MILD SYMPTOMS

As a reminder, anyone experiencing symptoms, including mild symptoms not included on the provincial screening tool (e.g., runny nose, sore throat, etc.) should **NOT** attend school or child care. If your child has mild symptoms not listed the screening tool, they can return to school or child care once their symptoms have improved for 24 hours. If your child does have symptoms listed on the screening tool, or their symptoms get worse, they are required to have a PCR COVID-19 test or stay home for 10 days.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

1-877-464-9675  
TTY 1-866-512-6228  
[york.ca/SafeAtSchool](http://york.ca/SafeAtSchool)



## SIBLINGS AND OTHER CHILDREN LIVING IN THE SAME HOUSEHOLD

York Region Public Health has specific instructions for children living in the same household to further reduce the chance of transmission within schools and child care centres. This means:

- If your unvaccinated child is identified as a close contact and is required to isolate (e.g. exposure in a classroom cohort), unvaccinated children living in the same household must NOT attend school or child care for the duration of the contact's isolation period. Fully vaccinated children living in the same household can continue to attend school as long as they do not have symptoms listed on the screening tool.
- If your fully vaccinated child is identified as a close contact (e.g. exposure in a classroom cohort), they are not required to isolate and can return to school as long as they do not have any symptoms of COVID-19. All children living in the same household can continue attending school or child care as long as they do not have symptoms listed on the screening tool.

Keeping COVID-19 transmission low in the community is important to help prevent the introduction of the virus into schools and child care centres. We continue to encourage everyone who is eligible to get [fully vaccinated](#) with two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as you are eligible. Vaccines are safe, effective and the best way to protect you and those around you from serious illnesses.

For general information about COVID-19 including symptoms, location of Assessment Centres in York Region and other resources, please visit our website at [york.ca/covid19](http://york.ca/covid19) or call Access York at 1-877-464-9675.

### Testing update

To increase access to testing for students, children, school/child care staff, essential visitors and their families, York Region Public Health is partnering with Ontario Health (Central), York Region District School Board (YRDSB) and York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB) to offer **drop-in community-based COVID-19** testing at two sites in York Region, in addition to the [COVID-19 Assessment Centre](#).

Drop-in testing will be available for students/children, school/child care staff, essential visitors and their families, ages two years and older, who are symptomatic or who have been identified as a close contact (e.g., are part of a dismissed cohort) or for those with no known exposure or symptoms can receive a COVID-19 test.

Testing will be offered on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in October and November. Testing options will include PCR saliva and nasal swabs, which will be used at the discretion of the clinician performing the test. Testing is voluntary and consent will be required from parents or guardians for students under 18 years of age. These sites are walk-in and do not require booking an appointment in advance.

Please note, rapid antigen testing will not be available at these testing sites. Rapid antigen testing **should not be used** when an individual is symptomatic or has been identified as a close contact of a case.

## WHEN AND WHERE WILL TESTING BE OFFERED?

<b>George Street Public School</b> 115 George Street, Aurora, ON <b>Wednesdays and Thursdays 2:00pm.- 7:00pm.</b>		<b>St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic High School</b> 2 Davos Rd, Woodbridge, ON L4H 2Y1 (Portables) <b>Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:30 pm. – 7:00pm.</b>	
<b>2:00 pm – 5:00 pm</b>	<b>For individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 or close contacts of a confirmed COVID-19 case</b>	<b>3:30 pm - 5:30 pm</b>	<b>For individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 or close contacts of a confirmed COVID-19 case</b>
<b>5:15 pm - 7:00 pm</b>	<b>For individuals with no known exposure or COVID-19 symptoms</b>	<b>5:45 pm – 7:00 pm</b>	<b>For individuals with no known exposure or COVID-19 symptoms</b>

**What to bring with you:** Individuals/families are strongly encouraged to bring their valid Ontario Health (OHIP) card(s) to increase easy accessing of results (you can still get tested if you do not have one) and a face mask or covering, to be worn at all times.

**For saliva testing:** Participants should be well hydrated by drinking a **cup of water 60 minutes before** giving a sample. Participants can **NOT** eat, drink, smoke, vape or chew gum **30 minutes prior** to giving a sample.

You will be able to access your COVID-19 test result online at [covid-19.ontario.ca](https://covid-19.ontario.ca), but please keep in mind it may take several days for your results to be processed.

Keeping COVID-19 transmission low in the community is important to help prevent the introduction of the virus into schools and child care centres. We continue to encourage everyone who is eligible to get [fully vaccinated](#) with two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as you are eligible. Vaccines are safe, effective and the best way to protect you and those around you from serious illnesses.

We all have a role to play to keep York Region schools and child cares as safe as possible.

Sincerely,

York Region Public Health