

COVID-19 UPDATE FOR FAMILIES ATTENDING SCHOOL IN YORK REGION

January 14, 2022

Dear Families:

On Thursday, December 30, 2021, the provincial government announced updates to COVID-19 case, contact and outbreak management. The updates include no longer considering schools a highest risk setting and directing public health efforts to be focused on protecting our most vulnerable residents in congregate care settings such as long-term care homes and retirement homes. As a result, York Region Public Health will no longer be conducting contact tracing in schools and cohort dismissals will not occur.

COVID-19 SCREENING REMINDERS

As York Region Public Health is no longer actively managing cases and dismissing cohorts, **daily screening for students and staff is more important than ever.**

Screening must be completed daily using the most recent [COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#). Parents/guardians must not send children to school or child care if they are showing **any** symptoms of COVID-19. The provincial guidance requires onsite confirmation of daily screening. Please follow the process your school/school board has developed for confirming screening is completed each day.

WHAT TO DO IF MY CHILD DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS?

Based on symptoms, if the screening tool advises your child must isolate, **assume your child has a COVID-19 infection.**

All household members of a symptomatic person, **regardless of vaccination status**, should stay at home for the same length of time the symptomatic person is isolating – please refer to the [screening tool](#) instructions or refer ontario.ca/exposed for more information.

If your child has symptoms, but the screening tool does not advise self-isolation, they should remain at home until their symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours (or 48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms). Your household members do not need to self-isolate.

If the student/child was symptomatic and required self-isolation based on the screening tool but has since tested negative for COVID-19 on a single PCR test or **two** rapid antigen tests (RAT) taken at least 24 hours apart, and symptoms have been improving for 24 hours they may return to school.

PUBLIC HEALTH

1-877-464-9675
TTY 1-866-512-6228
york.ca/COVID19



WHAT IF MY CHILD TESTS POSITIVE ON A TAKE-HOME PCR TEST KIT OR RAPID ANTIGEN TEST KIT?

If you have access to an at-home PCR test or rapid antigen test kit and your child gets a positive result, they must self-isolate immediately.

Your child who tested positive is:	Self-isolate at home:
12 years of age or older AND partially vaccinated or unvaccinated, or they are immune compromised.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For 10 days from when symptoms started • If you/your child was tested without having any symptoms, isolate for 10 days from test date
12 years of age or older AND fully vaccinated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For at least 5 days from when symptoms started; if needed, continue to isolate until symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms) • If you/your child was tested without having any symptoms, isolate for 5 days from test date
Under 12 years of age (regardless of their vaccination status)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For at least 5 days from when symptoms started; if needed, continue to isolate until symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms) • If your child was tested without having any symptoms, isolate for 5 days from test date
<p>All household members, <u>regardless of vaccination status</u>, must self-isolate while the person who tested positive is self-isolating – please refer to ontario.ca/exposed for more information.</p>	

Only people who test positive on PCR or may be contacted by their local public health unit or the provincial case and contact management team.

POSITIVE TEST - NOTIFYING CLOSE CONTACTS

Please think about who your child had close contact with outside of your household during the 48 hours before symptoms started, or from the date of the test date (whichever came sooner). Let close contacts know about their exposure and encourage them to visit ontario.ca/exposed or www.york.ca/COVID19positive

There is no requirement for parent(s)/guardian(s) to report their child's PCR/RAT results to the school or child care as part of absence reporting.

COVID-19 VACCINES

COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective and the best way to protect you and those around you from serious illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19.

York Region Public Health encourages all individuals five years of age and older to get a COVID-19 vaccine. Visit york.ca/COVID19Vaccine to learn more and find a vaccine clinic.

PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

Schools continue to work diligently with York Region Public Health to review and strengthen infection control measures. These measures include screening, masking, distancing, hand hygiene, cohorting, and cleaning and disinfecting at school.

As of January 2022, all school-aged children (JK to grade 12) are required to wear a mask indoors while attending school and child care, including classroom, hallways, and while using school transportation. Reasonable exemptions would continue to apply, such as students who have trouble breathing or are unable to wear a mask for medical reasons, and temporarily removing the mask when eating) (unless a mask exemption has been provided). The Public Health Agency of Canada recommends Canadians wear well-fitted three-layer masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

It is important to follow York Region Public Health's advice. Please visit york.ca/COVID19 for additional information on how to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

RESOURCES

- [COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening Tool](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccinations in York Region](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Quick Facts English | French](#)
- york.ca/COVID19
- york.ca/COVID19Positive
- york.ca/SafeAtSchool

This is an important message. Take it to someone who can read English.

Arabic	هذه رسالة هامة. يرجى أن تأخذها إلى شخص يستطيع قراءة اللغة الإنجليزية.
Armenian	Այս մի կարևոր պատգամ է. Տարևք մեկի մօտ որ կարող է անգլերէն կարդալ
Chinese	這是一項重要訊息。請拿去向懂英語的人士加以詢問。
Farsi	این یک پیام بسیار مهم است. این پیام را نزد کسی ببرید که بتواند زبان انگلیسی را بخواند.
French	Ce message est important. Veuillez le remettre à une personne qui lit l'anglais.
German	Dies ist eine wichtige Nachricht. Geben Sie sie jemandem, der Englisch lesen kann.
Greek	Το εἶδος μήνυμα είναι σημαντικό. Δώστε το σε κάποιον που μπορεί να διαβάσει αγγλικά.
Gujarati	આ એક મહત્વનો સંદેશ છે. આને કોઈ અંગ્રેજી વાંચી શકનાર વ્યક્તિ પાસે લઈ જાવ.
Hebrew	זו הודעה חשובה. קחו אותה למישהו שקורא אנגלית.
Hindi	यह एक महत्वपूर्ण संदेश है। इसे किसी ऐसे व्यक्ति के पास लेकर जाएं जो अंग्रेज़ी पढ़ता हो।
Italian	Questo è un messaggio importante. Portatelo a qualcuno che sappia leggere l'inglese.
Korean	다음은 중요한 사항입니다. 영어를 잘하는 분께 설명을 부탁드립니다.
Marathi	हा एक महत्वाचा संदेश आहे. इंग्लीश वाचता येणार्या कुणाकडे तरी हा घेऊन जा.
Polish	To ważna informacja. Poproś o pomoc kogoś, kto zna język angielski.
Portuguese	Esta mensagem é importante. Leve-a a alguém que saiba ler inglês.
Punjabi	ਇਹ ਬਹੁਤ ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਸੁਨੇਹਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਅਜਿਹੇ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਕੋਲ ਲੈਜਾਓ ਜਿਹੜਾ ਅੰਗਰੇਜ਼ੀ ਪੜ੍ਹ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੋਵੇ।
Romanian	Acesta este un mesaj important. Arătați-l unei persoane care știe limba engleză.
Russian	Это важное сообщение. Покажите его человеку, знающему английский язык.
Somali	Fariintaan waa muhiim. Ula tag qof af ingiriiska akhrinkara
Spanish	Este es un mensaje importante. Llévelo a alguien que pueda leer Inglés.
Tagalog	Ito ay isang napakahalagang mensahe. Dalhin ito sa sinumang marunong magbasa ng Ingles.
Tamil	இது ஒரு முக்கியமான செய்தியாகும், இதனை ஆங்கிலம் வாசிக்கத் தெரிந்த ஒருவரிடம் எடுத்துச் செல்லவும்.
Urdu	یہ ایک اہم پیغام ہے۔ اسے کسی ایسے شخص کے پاس لے جائیں جو انگریزی پڑھ سکتا ہو۔
Vietnamese	Đây là một thông báo quan trọng. Hãy đưa cho người nào biết đọc tiếng Anh.