

What To Do When A Child Has COVID-19 Symptoms

Screening/Self-Isolating

If a child has any of the following symptoms, they are **NOT ALLOWED** to attend school (regardless of vaccine status):



New cough or a cough that is getting worse



Shortness of breath



Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or loss of appetite



Fever and / or chills



Decrease or loss of taste or smell



Runny or stuffy / congested nose



Sore throat



Feeling unwell for an unknown reason



Unusual level of fatigue (feeling weak, tired, exhausted)

Self Isolate Immediately



+ Seek Medical Advice

Contact a health care provider for a medical assessment

or Contact the Niagara Health COVID-19 Assessment Centre to book an appointment online at niagarahealth.on.ca or call 905-378-4647 ext. 42819



Remain home from school until symptoms have resolved or are improving for 24 hours

A COVID-19 test is recommended prior to returning to school

Returning to School/Child Care

A child can return to school or child care when **ONE** of the following actions has happened:



A health care provider has assessed the child and has said the child does not need a COVID-19 test and does not need to self-isolate



The child had a test that was negative for COVID-19.

They have also been free of a fever for over 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, free of vomiting or diarrhea for 48 hours and other symptoms have mostly improved for at least 24 hours.





A health care provider has said that the symptom(s) are related to a pre-existing condition (i.e., allergies, post-nasal drip, migraines, asthma). In this case, the child can return to school/childcare once they feel well enough, without waiting for symptoms to go away.



If the child was not assessed by a health care provider, and testing for COVID-19 was declined for any reason, we must assume the child has COVID-19 and they will need to isolate for 10 days from their symptoms onset and away from household members when possible.

Siblings and other household members living with a symptomatic child



If a COVID-19 test is recommended by a health care provider for the symptomatic child, or a decision is made to get tested, all household members who are not fully vaccinated are to self-isolate until the test results are back. If the test result is negative, household members can leave self-isolation.



If a health care provider advises that a test for COVID-19 is not needed, household members can leave self-isolation.



Siblings of a student isolating from school



If a child in a home is a high risk contact from someone who tested positive, other children in the home can continue to attend school, as long as all household members remain symptom free.

Please note: If self-isolation away from household members is not possible, unvaccinated household members are to self-isolate as well for the duration of the child's illness, and then for an additional 10 days from last exposure to the symptomatic child. If household members become symptomatic, they should consult their healthcare provider and/or go for testing.

If symptoms compatible with COVID-19 are persisting or worsening, the symptomatic child is to continue to stay home from school. A repeat COVID-19 test should be considered.

Niagara Region Public Health will provide further guidance and support to individuals who test positive and their contacts.

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COVID-19 Info-Line

905-688-8248 press 7 Toll-free: 1-888-505-6074
niagararegion.ca/COVID19

Niagara  Region