# Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario

# PARENT INFORMATION SHEET

COVID-19 Case Management Protocol
Last updated 2020-10-15

Please note that this document will be updated according to the evolution of ministerial instructions and those of public health authorities.

## **COVID-19 CASE MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL AND RESOURCES**

- Government operational guidelines for the management of COVID-19 in schools
- CEPEO Guide: Cases of signs or symptoms, confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 section

#### **OTTAWA PUBLIC HEALTH**

- Symptomatic student at school
- Testing recommendations
- After testing Tested, What Now?

## **EASTERN ONTARIO HEALTH (EOHU)**

- Cases and Outbreaks Web Page
- Provincial screening Form
- Resource page for schools and school boards

## HASTINGS PRINCE EDWARD PUBLIC HEALTH (HPEPH)

- Cases and Outbreaks Web Page
- Provincial screening Form

### KINGSTON, FRONTENAC AND LENNOX & ADDINGTON PUBLIC HEALTH (KFLPH)

- Cases and Outbreaks Web Page
- Provincial screening Form
- Resource page for schools

#### LEEDS, GRENVILLE & LANARK DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT (LGLDHU)

- Cases and Outbreaks Web Page
- Screening form
- Resource page for schools

#### RENFREW COUNTY AND DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT (RCDHU)

- Cases and Outbreaks Web Page
- Provincial screening Form
- Resource page for schools
- Guidance on Testing and Isolation (2020-09-22)

# FACT SHEET | sick student at school with symptoms of COVID-19

(Based on Ottawa Public Health protocol. Please check with your local health unit for details)

The teacher informs the administration of the student's condition.

The student is escorted back to the isolation room and supervised by a member of staff wearing personal protective equipment.

The school communicates with the parent so that the latter can pick up the student within a reasonable time.

The school identifies if other family members are at school.

The student and other family members leave school to isolate themselves. The parent monitors their child's symptoms and contacts their health care provider as needed.

The school disinfects the isolation room and the classroom (e.g. desk)

The school ensures that it has up-to-date records of staff, students and visitors in order to be able to provide information about students and staff belonging to any class cohort (e.g. people in the classroom, on the bus, as part of before and after school care programs) to provide them to public health authorities, as needed.

If the student shows symptoms of COVID-19 such as cough, chills, decreased or loss of smell or taste, fever or breathing difficulties, they must be screened OR self-isolate for the complete isolation period of 10 days. All members of the household should also self-isolate until a negative test result is received AND 24 hours after symptoms resolve OR for the full 14 days. The child can return to school 24 hours after the symptoms disappear. (If the child's symptoms include vomiting or diarrhea, the child may return to school 48 hours after the symptoms resolve.) The principal can request a letter of attestation of return to school signed by the parent if the latter has not been tested.

A student who shows other symptoms, such as sore throat, stuffy nose and / or runny nose, headache, nausea, vomiting and / or diarrhea, fatigue, lethargy, muscle pain or discomfort should stay home for at least 24 hours from the time the symptom started. If the symptom improves AND your child does not have a fever for the first 24 hours, your child can return to school when they feel well enough to return. (If the child's symptoms include vomiting or diarrhea, the child may return to school 48 hours after the symptoms resolve.) A negative COVID-19 test is not required for return. Family contacts who do not show symptoms can also end their self-isolation. The principal can request a letter of attestation of return to school signed by the parent if the latter has not been tested.

# If symptoms persist or worsen, or if your child develops any additional symptoms :

- your child should go to a COVID-19 assessment center or clinic to be tested as soon as possible, or
- you should contact your child's health care provider for advice, assessment or other treatment.

Your child can return to school or daycare in the following cases:

- A negative result is received, AND a period of 24 hours has passed after the symptoms disappeared. (If the child's symptoms include vomiting or diarrhea, the child may return to school 48 hours after the symptoms resolve.) Family contacts who do not show symptoms can end their self-isolation.
- A doctor or nurse practitioner concludes that the symptoms are not those of COVID-19, provides a
  different diagnosis, AND a period of 24 hours has passed after the symptoms disappeared. (If the
  child's symptoms include vomiting or diarrhea, the child may return to school 48 hours after the
  symptoms resolve.) Family contacts who do not show symptoms can end their self-isolation.

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Asymptomatic contacts who have been identified as high risk by the public health unit must extend their isolation period to 10 days after the date of a screening test OR until a negative result is received. Asymptomatic high-risk contacts who have not been tested may return to school 14 days after their last exposure.

It is possible that a person can test positive for COVID-19 even if they have only one symptom. If you are concerned that your child may have contracted COVID-19, even if they have only one symptom, you may choose to have your child tested at an assessment center.

## FACT SHEET | school outbreak of COVID-19

(based on Ottawa Public Health protocol. Please check with your local health unit for details)

- Local Public health units (PHU) are responsible for determining, when an outbreak has taken place, to declare it and to issue directives for the measures that need to be put in place to control the outbreak.
- In the event of a declared outbreak in a school, the public health unit will help determine which cohorts should be sent home, or whether there is a need for a full or partial school closure based on the extent of the outbreak.

A school outbreak is defined as: at least two laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases within a 14-day period among students and / or staff, with an epidemiological link, and when it can be reasonably assumed at least one case acquired the infection at school (including school transportation and before and after school childcare).

The local public health unit will work with the school to trace epidemiological links (e.g. cases belonging to the same class, cases belonging to the same cohort of before and after school childcare services, cases whose allocated seats on the bus are close to each other). The PHU will designate cohorts for which the risk of exposure is high and isolation is necessary.

# **FACT SHEET | a parent tests positive**

(based on Ottawa Public Health protocol. Please check with your local health unit for details)

- The parent is asked to inform the school of their positive result for COVID-19. If the student is at school, the school coordinates the immediate departure of the student (as well as his siblings) and escorts them back to the isolation room supervised by a staff-member wearing individual protection equipment.
- The school checks that the information in the student's file (e.g. class list, seat allocation, transportation arrangements, etc.) is up to date and prepares to communicate these elements to the public health office (PHU) if the latter requests it.
- The school disinfects the isolation room and the classroom. (e.g. his desk)
- 4 The student must stay at home in self-isolation and follow the instructions of the public health unit.

## COMMUNICATIONS

- In the event of a positive COVID-19 test or if a student is identified as being at high risk, the public health unit (PHU) contacts the school to confirm this information.
- In the event of a COVID-19 outbreak at school, that outbreak will be confirmed by the public health unit (PHU).
- The Ontario government is posting confirmed cases of COVID-19 on its <u>website</u>. The information is also available on the CEPEO website.
- The school notifies the school community of the positive case, the outbreak only after receiving clearance from the public health unit.

- The people who must be in self-isolation will be identified by the PHU and will receive a communication from the PHU. If you do not receive a letter from your local PHU, it is safe for your child to return to school.
- In the name of privacy, the information provided to school communities will not identify the student or staff member who tested positive for COVID-19.
- In the event that your child has to isolate themself, their teacher will contact you to share with you a planning of learning activities to continue at home. This plan will follow the Ontario Ministry of Education curriculum.