

IMPORTANT UPDATE | NEW SCREENING REQUIREMENTS

Dear parents and guardians,

I hope you are well. We wish to inform you that the provincial government has made updates to the COVID-19 screening requirements for schools and childcare services. A more cautious approach is being taken in response to new variants of the COVID-19 virus that have been identified in Ontario. Newer variants of COVID-19 spread more easily. Additional precautions are therefore necessary to prevent spread within the community.

NEW - Single symptom screening

Students, children, and staff with any new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19, even only one symptom, should stay home (self-isolate) until:

- They test negative for COVID-19, their symptoms improve, they no longer have a fever and they feel well enough to go to school or work;
- If they are not tested, they should isolate until it has been 10 days since the onset of the symptoms, the symptoms are improving, they have no fever, and they are feeling better.
- They receive another diagnosis from a healthcare professional.

NEW - Requirements for asymptomatic high-risk contact household members

High-risk contacts are people who have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

People who live in the same household as a person who is considered a high-risk contact and who does not have symptoms (asymptomatic), should stay at home for the duration of the self-isolation period except for the following essential reasons: going to work, to school, to childcare, and to complete essential errands such as groceries, attending medical appointments or picking up prescriptions.

NEW - Guidelines for travel outside of Canada

The Canadian government has updated the guidelines for out-of-country travel. Please read them by [following this link](#).

REMINDER - Isolation requirements for members of a household with symptomatic persons

ALL members of a household having persons with new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19 should self-isolate until the person with symptoms receives a negative COVID-19 test result or an alternate diagnosis from a healthcare professional.

If the person with the symptoms does not seek to be tested for COVID-19, they must self-isolate for 10 days. ALL household members should also self-isolate for 14 days from the date of their last contact with the symptomatic person.

REMINDER - Self-assessment

Government and health unit self-assessment tools have been updated to reflect the new requirements.

We remind you that you must complete the COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment each morning, for each of your children. This is available on your child's school website and on the [CEPEO website](#).

Students in Grades 9 to 12 must verbally confirm to their teacher that they have completed the self-assessment and that the results indicate that they can attend school.

Public health authority resources have been updated, you can consult them in [this fact-sheet](#) or on the [CEPEO website](#).

Have a safe week.

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