



# Protocol When Staff or Students Test Positive for COVID-19



Students/staff who test positive for COVID-19 must remain in isolation until:

1. They have isolated for 10 days after the start of symptoms **AND**
2. Symptoms have been improving for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.

**NOTE:** Students or staff do not need to show proof of a negative test or medical note to return to school.

Ottawa Public Health (OPH) will provide guidance and conduct follow up with the staff, student and/or household members of the person who tested positive for COVID-19.

**OPH is informed of a POSITIVE TEST result of an individual at school.** OPH confirms positive test result and when individual was last at school to determine if they attended school during the time when they were able to spread the virus to others (period of communicability).



**Ottawa Public Health School Nurse** contacts the school administration to make sure the school is notified and request information on the close contacts of person who tested positive for COVID-19. Information needed can include: class lists and seating charts, staff lists, transportation lists & seating charts and before and after school child care lists.



## Ottawa Public Health will:

1. Perform risk assessment of school contacts of person who tested positive for COVID-19.
2. Provide school with list of anyone who is considered a high-risk contact.
3. Provide a letter for all parents/guardians and staff, that the school will send, to inform them that someone at the school has tested positive for COVID-19.
4. Provide a letter for all high-risk contacts, to be sent by the school, to notify them of their exposure to COVID-19 and next steps for testing and self-isolation.
5. Provide daily "Do Not Attend Lists" to the school with the student/staff names who cannot go to school.
6. Provide school with recommendations for infection prevention and control measures.
7. Determine if an outbreak will be declared.



**HIGH-RISK contacts must** self-isolate at home for 14 days after they were in contact with person who tested positive for COVID-19, even if the high-risk contact has a negative COVID-19 test result. OPH will connect with high-risk contacts directly for recommendations on COVID-19 testing and isolation.

**SYMPTOMATIC students/staff** should be tested.

**ASYMPTOMATIC (no symptoms) students/staff** who are identified as **high-risk contacts** (e.g., children in the same class as a person who tested positive for COVID-19), are advised to go for testing **no earlier than 5 days** after last close contact with the person who tested positive.

If your child does **NOT** currently have symptoms of COVID-19, other members of your household do **NOT** have to self-isolate. If your child does have symptoms, or develops symptoms, please ensure all other members of the household also stay home and self-isolate. Household members only need to be tested **if they develop symptoms**.

For more information please visit [OttawaPublicHealth.ca](https://ottawapublichealth.ca) or call **613-580-6744**.

Adapted with permission by KFL&A Public Health

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