

Ottawa, September 2, 2022

IMPORTANT UPDATE | Public Health Guidelines Update

Dear parents and guardians,

I hope your child had a great start to the school year. I had the chance to visit a few schools and had a great time seeing your children excited, smiling and happy to be back at school. These same emotions were also evident on the faces of many parents.

Screening Tool

The Ontario government has made changes to the COVID-19 screening tool that take into account factors specific to other respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses that may be circulating in the coming months.

- Anyone who is ill or has new or worsening symptoms of illness, including those not listed in the [screening tool](#), should stay home until their symptoms have improved for at least 24 hours (or 48 hours if nausea, vomiting or diarrhea), and they are fever free and seek professional medical attention as needed. The presence of symptoms, especially respiratory symptoms, increases the risk of transmission to others.
- It is recommended that a mask be worn for 10 days after the onset of symptoms.

It is still recommended that students, staff and visitors complete the [screening tool](#) each morning before going to school or child care.

Vaccination for 5-11 year olds

Parents/guardians of children ages 5-11 and older can now make an appointment for a pediatric booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. To do so, you can:

- Visit the [COVID-19 Vaccine Portal](#)
- Call the Provincial Vaccine Centre at 1-833-943-3900.
- Contact your local Public Health Unit
- Contact the pharmacies that offer this service.

Please be assured that in this new school year, the health and safety of your child remains our priority.

I thank you for your cooperation and wish you a great long weekend with your child.

Sylvie C.R. Tremblay
Director of Education