



# COVID-19 Screening Tool for Children, Staff, and Visitors in Durham Region Licensed Child Care

Version 6 –, September 7, 2021

This updated tool is intended to be used by licensed child care operators in Durham Region for the daily screening of children, staff, and essential visitors. This tool has been adapted and updated from [the Ministry of Health, COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening](#) and the [Ontario COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) to meet Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) requirements dictated by the Durham Region Health Department and legislative requirements within the Child Care and Early Years Act (2014).

This screening will help parents determine if their child should attend child care, self-isolate, consult with a health care provider and/or contact the Durham Region Health Department. This document also provides clarity for when a child may return to care. For more information, please see the Frequently Asked Questions for operators section at the end of this document.

Should you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact your Quality Assurance Advisor by phone at 905-668-7711 or by the email provided below:

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Sincerely,

Lisa McIntosh, RECE, BA  
Director  
Children's Services Division  
Social Services Department  
The Regional Municipality of Durham

## Required Screening Questions

### 1. Do you or your child have any of the following new or worsening symptoms?

*Symptoms should not be chronic or related to other known causes or conditions.*

<b>COVID-19 Symptoms</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Fever and/or chills</b> <i>Temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius or 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or greater.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Cough or barking cough (croup)</b> <i>Continuous, more than usual, making a whistling noise when breathing (not related to asthma, post-infectious reactive airways, or other known causes or conditions you already have).</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Shortness of breath</b> <i>Out of breath, unable to breathe deeply, (Not related to asthma or other known causes or conditions you may already have).</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Decrease or loss of smell or taste</b> <i>Not related to seasonal allergies, neurological disorders, or other known causes or conditions you already have.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Extreme tiredness (Not applicable to child screening)</b> <i>Unusual fatigue, lack of energy (not related to getting a COVID-19 vaccine in the past 48 hours, depression, insomnia, thyroid dysfunction, or other known causes or conditions you already have).</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Muscle Aches/joint pain (Not applicable to child screening)</b> <i>Unusual, long-lasting (not related to getting a COVID-19 vaccine in the past 48 hours, a sudden injury, fibromyalgia, or other known causes or conditions you already have).</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea (Not applicable to staff and visitors screening)</b> <i>Not related to irritable bowel syndrome, anxiety, menstrual cramps, or other known causes or conditions you may already have).</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Please answer the following questions on behalf of yourself or your child.

Additional Screening Questions	Yes	No
<p><b>2. Did you receive your final (or second in a two-dose series) COVID-19 vaccination dose more than 14 days ago, or have you tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared?</b></p> <p>If 'Yes' skip questions 3, 4, 5.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<p><b>3. Is anyone you live with currently experiencing any new COVID-19 symptoms and/or waiting for test results after experiencing symptoms?</b></p> <p>If the individual experiencing symptoms received a COVID-19 vaccination in the last 48 hours and is experiencing mild headache, fatigue, muscle aches, and/or joint pain that only began after vaccination, select 'No'.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<p><b>4. In the last 10 days, have you been identified as a 'close contact' of someone who currently has COVID-19?</b></p> <p>If you already went for a test and got a negative result, select 'No'.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<p><b>5. In the last 10 days, have you received a COVID Alert exposure notification on your cell phone?</b></p> <p>If you already went for a test and got a negative result, select 'No'.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<p><b>6. Child question: In the last 14 days, have you travelled outside of Canada AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Been advised to quarantine as per the federal quarantine requirements AND/OR</b></li> <li>• <b>Are you under the age of 12 and not fully vaccinated?</b></li> </ul> <p>If travel was solely due to a cross border custody arrangement, select 'No'.</p> <p><b>Employees and Visitors question: In the last 14 days have you travelled outside of Canada and been advised to quarantine as per the federal quarantine requirements?</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<p><b>7. Has a doctor, health care provider, or public health unit told you that you should currently be isolating (staying at home)?</b></p> <p>This can be because of an outbreak or contact tracing.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<p><b>8. In the last 10 days, have you tested positive on a rapid antigen test or a home-based self-testing kit?</b></p> <p>If you have since tested negative on a lab-based PCR test, select 'No'.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

## Results of screening questions

**If you answered “Yes” to any of the symptoms included under question 1, do not go to child care:**

1. Contact your Centre's supervisor to let them know about this result.
2. Isolate (stay home) and do not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
3. Talk with a doctor/health care provider to get advice or an assessment, including if your child/you need a COVID-19 test.
4. Other people in your household must stay home until you test negative, or are cleared by public health, or are diagnosed with another illness. Household members who are fully immunized or previously positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared are not required to stay home.

When can I return to child care?

If children and staff/visitors test negative for COVID-19 after having a COVID-19 symptom(s), they may return when:

- They do not have a fever (without using medication).
- It has been at least 24 hours since symptoms have improved.
- It has been 48 hours since gastrointestinal symptoms have been resolved and they are symptom-free.
- If a centre is in outbreak, the Public Health Department will provide recommended timelines for return to care.

**If you answered “Yes” to question 3, do not go to child care:**

1. Contact your Centre’s supervisor to let them know about this result.
2. Isolate (stay home) and do not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
3. You can return to child care after the individual with negative symptoms tests negative and is cleared by public health or is diagnosed with another illness.

**If you answered “Yes” to question 4, do not go to child care:**

1. Contact your Centre’s supervisor to let them know about this result.
2. You must isolate (stay home) for 10 days and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
3. Talk with a doctor/health care provider to get advice or an assessment, including if your child/you need a COVID-19 test. You can only return to child care after 10 days, even if you get a negative test result, as long as you do not develop any symptoms.
4. Other people in your household can go to school, child care, or work, but must not leave the home for other non-essential reasons. Household members who are fully immunized or previously positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared are not required to stay home.

5. If you develop symptoms or test positive, contact public health or your doctor/health care provider for more advice.

**If you answered “Yes” to question 5, do not go to child care:**

1. Contact your Centre’s supervisor to let them know about this result.
2. You must isolate (stay home) for 10 days and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
3. Visit an assessment centre to get a COVID-19 test.
  - If you test negative (you do not have the virus), you can return to child care.
  - If you test positive (you have the virus), you need to continue isolating and can only return after you are cleared by public health.
4. If you develop symptoms, contact public health or your doctor/health care provider for more advice.
5. Siblings or other people in your household can go to school, child care or work, but must not leave home for other, non-essential reasons until the individual who got the COVID alert tests negative or is cleared by public health. Household members who are fully immunized or previously tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared are not required to stay home.

**If you answered “Yes” to question 6, do not go to child care:**

1. Contact your Centre’s supervisor to let them know about this result.
2. You must isolate (stay home) for 14 days and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
3. Follow the advice of public health. You can return to child care after you have completed your federal quarantine requirements.
4. If you develop symptoms and/or test positive, contact public health or doctor/healthcare provider for more advice.

**If you answered” Yes” to question 7, do not go to child care:**

1. Contact your Centre’s supervisor to let them know about this result.
2. You must isolate (stay home) and should not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
3. Follow the advice of public health. You can return to child care after you are cleared by public health.
4. If you develop symptoms, contact public health or doctor/health care provider for more advice.
5. Other people in your household must stay at home until you test negative or are cleared by public health. Household members who are fully immunized or previously test positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared are not required to stay home.

**If you answered “Yes” to question 8, do not go to child care:**

1. Contact your Centre’s supervisor to let them know about this result.
2. You must isolate (stay home) and should not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
3. Visit an assessment centre to get a COVID-19 test.

- If you test negative (you do not have the virus), you can return to child care.
  - If you test positive (you have the virus), you need to continue isolating and can only return after you are cleared by public health.
4. If you develop symptoms, contact public health or doctor/health care provider for more advice.
  5. Other people in your household must isolate until you test negative on a PCR test or are cleared by public health. Household members who are fully immunized or previously positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and have since been cleared are not required to isolate.

### **If they test positive**

If children or staff/visitors test positive for COVID-19, they can return to care when:

- They are cleared by the Durham Region Health Department.

### **If they do not get tested**

If children or staff/visitors choose not to be tested, they must isolate for 10 days (unless otherwise directed for longer, above).

They can return to care after the 10-day isolation when:

- They do not have a fever (without using medication).
- It has been at least 24 hours since symptoms have improved.
- It has been 48 hours since gastrointestinal symptoms have been resolved and they are symptom-free.
- If a centre is in outbreak, the Public Health Department will provide recommended timelines for return to care.

### **If they do not talk with a doctor**

If children or staff/visitors choose not to speak with a doctor, they must isolate for 10 days (unless otherwise directed for longer, above).

They can return to care after the 10-day isolation when:

- They do not have a fever (without using medication).
- It has been at least 24 hours since symptoms have improved.
- It has been 48 hours since gastrointestinal symptoms have been resolved and they are symptom-free.
- If a centre is in outbreak, the Public Health Department will provide recommended timelines for return to care.

## **Frequently asked questions for Durham Region operators**

### **How does this updated memo differ from the previous version?**

#### Symptoms

Updates to the screening tool have been made to reflect changes made to the Ministry of Education's COVID-19 school and child care screening tool.

In alignment with the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 Reference Document for symptoms, the screening now includes a shortened list of symptoms that are most commonly associated with COVID-19. As per regular protocols, all sick individuals with any symptoms of illness, including those with symptoms not included on the screening tool, should stay home, and seek assessment from their regular health care provider, if required.

#### Consideration for immunization status

Asymptomatic individuals who are fully immunized (equal to or more than 14 days after received their second dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or their first dose of a one-dose vaccines series) or who were previously positive within the past 90 days and have since been cleared, are not required to self-isolate if they are in contact with an individual who is symptomatic or who test positive for COVID-19, unless otherwise directed by public health.

#### Isolation Period

Asymptomatic high-risk close contacts of a case are now required to isolate for 10 days, unless they are fully immunized or previously tested positive, as above.

#### International Travel

Children under 12 who travelled outside of the country may not attend child care for 14 days after their arrival, even if they travelled in the company of someone who qualified for an exemption from quarantine, unless their international travel was solely due to a cross border custody arrangement.

#### Rapid Testing

The screening tool now includes a question about a positive screen on a rapid antigen or home-based self-testing kit.

#### When can I return to child care?

Specific guidance has been provided on next steps and when someone may return to child care based on which question they answered 'yes' to in the screening questions.

**What does fully vaccinated mean?**

You are fully vaccinated when you have completed your full COVID-19 vaccines series (e.g., two doses of a two dose vaccine series) and it has been 14 days or more since your final dose.

**Does Durham Region's daily screening assessment differ from the Ontario COVID-19 assessment for school and child care?**

Yes. In Durham Region, in addition to the criteria outlined by the Province as to when a child, staff or visitor may return to care, Durham Region Public Health also requires that they may only return to care when:

- They do not have a fever (without using medication).
- It has been at least 24 hours since symptoms have improved.
- It has been 48 hours since gastrointestinal symptoms have been resolved and they are symptom-free.

**Do I need to collect a doctor's note or proof of a negative COVID-19 test before a child returns to child care?**

No. As outlined by the Ministry of Health, COVID-19 Screening Tool for Children in School and Child Care (Version 2, November 2020) and by the Ministry of Education, when a child is no longer showing symptoms that would otherwise require that child to stay home, barriers to returning to child care, such as the requirement of medical notes or proof of negative COVID-19 tests, are not required.

**How long do I have to keep screening records?**

As per the Ministry of Education Operational Guidelines (Version 2, November 2020), the requirement to maintain records of daily screening has been revoked.