



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

Version 9 – January 11, 2022

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

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:

- **Millie Forbes at extension 3630 or [millie.forbes@durham.ca](mailto:millie.forbes@durham.ca)**
- **Melissa Young at extension 2791 or [melissa.young@durham.ca](mailto:melissa.young@durham.ca)**
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- **Patti Rowland at extension 2593 or [patti.rowland@durham.ca](mailto:patti.rowland@durham.ca)**

For further information on COVID-19 including but not limited to vaccine information, what to do if you have received a positive COVID-19 result, and steps to take if you are a close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual, please visit the [COVID-19 Case and Contact Information Hub](#)

Sincerely,

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

## Required Screening Questions

1. In the last (5, 10) days have you or your child experienced any of the following symptoms?

- If you are fully vaccinated or 11 years old and younger, use 5 days
- If you are not fully vaccinated OR if you are immune compromised, use 10 days.

*Choose any/all symptoms that are new, worsening, and not related to other known causes or conditions you already have.*

Symptoms most commonly associated with COVID-19	Yes	No
<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

2. In the last (5, 10) days have you or your child experienced any of the following symptoms?

- If you are fully vaccinated or 11 years old and younger, use 5 days.
- If you are not fully vaccinated OR if you are immune compromised, use 10 days.

*Choose any/all symptoms that are new, worsening, and not related to other known causes or conditions you already have.*

<b>Sore Throat</b> <i>Painful or difficulty swallowing (not related to post-nasal drip, acid reflux, or other known causes or conditions you already have)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Runny or stuffy/congested nose</b> <i>Not related to seasonal allergies, being outside in cold weather, or other known causes or conditions you already have</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Headache</b> <i>New, unusual, long-lasting (not related to getting a COVID-19 vaccine and/or flu shot in the last 48 hours, tension-type headaches, chronic migraines, or other known causes or conditions you already have)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Extreme tiredness</b> <i>Unusual fatigue, lack of energy, poor feeding in infants (not related to getting a COVID-19 vaccine and/or flu shot 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</b> <i>Unusual, long-lasting (not related to getting a COVID-19 vaccine and/or flu shot 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</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.**

<b>Additional screening questions</b>		
<b>3. In the last (5, 10) days have you or your child tested positive for COVID-19?</b>  This includes a positive COVID-19 test result on a lab-based PCR, rapid antigen test, or home-based self-testing kit.  If you or your child are fully vaccinated use 5 days, if you are not fully vaccinated OR if you are immune-compromised use 10 days.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>4. Do any of the following apply?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You or your child live with someone who is currently isolating because of a positive COVID-19 test</li> <li>• You or your child live with someone who is currently isolating because of COVID-19 symptoms</li> <li>• You or your child live with someone who is waiting for COVID-19 test results</li> </ul> If the individual isolating has not tested positive for COVID-19 and only has one of these symptoms: sore throat or difficulty swallowing, runny or stuffy/congested nose, headache, extreme tiredness, muscle aches or joint pain, nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea, select "No."	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>5. Have you or your child been identified as a 'close contact' of someone outside of the household who currently has COVID-19 and has been advised to self-isolate? If you are fully vaccinated, select 'No'.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

<b>Additional screening questions</b>		
<b>6. Has a doctor, health care provider, or public health until told you that you should be currently isolating (staying at home)?</b> This can be because of an outbreak or contact tracing.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>7. Do any of the following apply?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the last 14 days, have you travelled outside of Canada and were told to quarantine</li> <li>• In the last 14 days, have you travelled outside of Canada and were told not to attend school/child care</li> <li>• In the last 14 days, someone you or your child lives with has returned from travelling outside of Canada and is isolating while awaiting results of a COVID-19 test</li> </ul> <p>If travel was solely due to a cross border custody arrangement, select 'No'.</p> <p>Please note that if your child is not fully vaccinated but is exempt from federal quarantine because they travelled with a vaccinated companion, they must not attend school or child care for 14 days. Select "yes" if this applies to your child.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

## Results of screening questions

**If you answered “YES” to ANY question, your child cannot go to child care. Contact your child care provider to let them know that your child will not be attending.**

See below for isolation and testing requirements.

Note: When the option of (5, 10) days is listed:

- If you or your child is fully vaccinated OR 11 years old or younger, use 5 days.
- If you or your child is 12 years old or older AND is not fully vaccinated OR is immune compromised, use 10 days.

**If you or your child answered “Yes” to any of the symptoms included under question 1 (symptoms most commonly associated with COVID-19), 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 (if you are eligible for a PCR test) or for a medical emergency.
3. If you or your child is not tested, and if:
  - You or your child is fully vaccinated OR 11 years old or younger, you must isolate for 5 days from when symptoms started and stay in isolation until your symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours after nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea symptoms have resolved), whichever is longest.
  - You or your child is not fully vaccinated OR if you are immune-compromised, they must isolate for 10 days from when symptoms started and stay in isolation until your symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours after nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea symptoms have resolved).
4. If testing is available:
  - If a single PCR test or rapid antigen test (RAT) is positive, you or your child should follow the guidance above “if you or your child is not tested”
  - If a single PCR test is negative, or two rapid antigen tests (RATs) collected 24-48 hours apart are both negative, then you or your child may return to child care when your symptom(s) have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours after nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea symptoms have resolved).
5. Household members (regardless of vaccination status), including siblings, must stay home until you or your child are cleared from isolation.

**If you or your child answered “Yes” to any of the symptoms included under question 2 (symptoms less commonly associated with COVID-19), 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 (if you are eligible for a PCR test) or for a medical emergency.
3. If you have experienced only one of these symptoms in the last (5, 10) days, you must stay at home until the symptom has been improving at least 24 hours (nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea symptoms must be resolved at least 48 hours).
4. If you have experienced two or more of the symptoms in the last (5, 10) days, you must stay home.
5. If you or your child is not tested, and if:
  - You or your child is fully vaccinated OR 11 years old or younger, you must isolate for 5 days from when symptoms started and stay in isolation until your symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours after nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea symptoms have resolved), whichever is longest.
  - You or your child is not fully vaccinated OR if you are immune-compromised, they must isolate for 10 days from when symptoms started and stay in isolation until your symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours after nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea symptoms have resolved).
6. If testing is available:
  - If a single PCR test or rapid antigen test (RAT) is positive, you or your child should follow the guidance above “if you or your child is not tested”
  - If a single PCR test is negative, or two rapid antigen tests (RATs) collected 24-48 hours apart are both negative, then you or your child may return to child care when your symptom(s) have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours after nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea symptoms have resolved).
7. Household members (regardless of vaccination status), including siblings, must stay home until you or your child are cleared from isolation.

Note: If you or your child also answered “Yes” to any symptom in question 1, please follow question 1 isolation guidance.

**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. If you or your child are fully vaccinated or 11 years old and younger you must isolate for 5 days from when symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours after nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea symptoms have resolved), whichever is longest.
4. If you are not fully vaccinated OR if you are immune-compromised, you must isolate for 10 days from when the symptoms started or from when you tested positive for COVID-19 (whichever was first) and stay in isolation until your symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours after nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea symptoms have resolved, whichever is longest
5. Household members (regardless of vaccination status), including siblings, must stay home until you or your child are cleared from isolation.

**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 or your child must isolate (stay home) while there is anyone in the home who is isolating because of symptoms, a positive COVID-19 test result, or is waiting for a COVID-19 test result. You should only leave home for a medical emergency.
3. All household members must stay home at the same time as the household member who has COVID-19 symptoms or is a positive COVID-19 case, whether they are fully vaccinated or not.

**If you answered "Yes" to question 5 OR 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 not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
3. If you or your child develop symptoms, follow isolation guidance under question 1 and 2 based on the symptoms you or your child are experiencing.
4. If you are 11 years of younger and have been identified as a close contact of someone who currently has COVID-19, you must self-isolate for 5 days and stay in isolation until your symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours after nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea symptoms have resolved), whichever is longest. If you are 12 years of age or older and not fully vaccinated OR immune-compromised you must self-isolate for 10 days and stay in isolation until your

symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours after nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea symptoms have resolved), whichever is longest.

5. If you are 12 years of age or older and not fully vaccinated OR immune-compromised you must self-isolate for 10 days and stay in isolation until your symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours after nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea symptoms have resolved), whichever is longest.
6. If you are isolating because you were identified as a close contact of someone who currently has COVID-19 and were advised to isolate, or because of an outbreak or contact tracing, other people in your household can go to school, child care or work, but must not leave the home for other non-essential reasons.

**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 follow federal guidelines for individuals how have travelled internationally, including not going to school/child care for 14 days after their arrival and getting tested as per federal requirements.
3. If you or your child have been directed to quarantine, you must stay home for 14 days and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency. For more information on federal requirements for travellers, please see the Government of Canada’s website.
4. If someone you or your child lives with is isolating following return from travelling outside of Canada and received a take-home PCR test at the airport, is symptomatic following international travel OR is awaiting test results, you or your child must stay home until the individual has received a negative PCR test result.
5. If you develop symptoms, follow isolation guidance found under question ‘1’ and ‘2’ depending on the symptoms you are experiencing.

**Frequently asked questions for Durham Region operators**

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

On the recommendation of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, a more sensitive COVID-19 symptom list is being reinstated for daily active screening of all children and staff in child care. Anyone who has symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 or is a confirmed positive case must self-isolate, regardless of vaccination status. Updated testing and isolation guidelines are also reflected in this memo. Individuals with COVID-19 who are vaccinated, as well as children under 12, will be required to isolate for five days following the onset of symptoms. Individuals who are partially vaccinated, unvaccinated, or immune-compromised will be required to isolate for 10 days following the onset of symptoms. Household contacts are also now required to isolate with them.



### **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.

Additionally, isolation requirements have been aligned with Durham Region Public Health guidance for when you or your child has been identified as a 'close contact' of someone outside of the household who currently has COVID-19 and been advised to self-isolate.

- If you are 11 years of age or younger and have been identified as a close contact of someone who currently has COVID-19, you must self-isolate for 5 days and stay in isolation until your symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours after nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea symptoms have resolved), whichever is longest.
- If you are 12 years of age or older and not fully vaccinated OR immune-compromised you must self-isolate for 10 days and stay in isolation until your symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours after nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea symptoms have resolved), whichever is longest.

### **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.