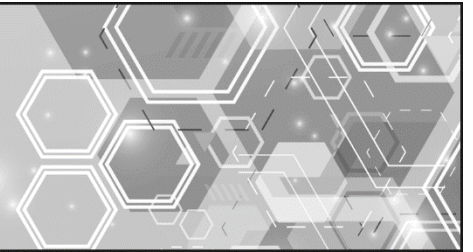




Durham Region Health Department **Facts about...**



COVID-19 Outbreaks in Schools and Childcares

What is a COVID-19 Outbreak in a school?

An outbreak in a school or childcare is defined as **two** or more lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases in children and/or staff (or other visitors) where at least one case could have reasonably acquired their infection* in the school, childcare, or before/after school program (including transportation).

*Examples of reasonably having acquired infection in the school or childcare include:

- No obvious source of infection outside of the school or childcare setting; **OR**
- Known exposure in the school or childcare setting.

How is a COVID-19 outbreak managed in school or childcare?

Your school or childcare is working closely with Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) to ensure all necessary health and safety measures are in place to protect the entire school/childcare community. Depending on the assessment conducted by DRHD, there may be closures ranging from a single classroom up to a full school or childcare closure. The school or childcare will remain open if there is **NO** evidence of potential widespread transmission within the setting.

Additional measures during an outbreak may include:

- Outbreak signs at entrances and affected areas
- Informing outside agencies that use the school/childcare of the outbreak
- Only allowing essential visitors
- Further minimizing the movement of staff between cohorts
- Limiting student activities to their required cohorts
- Stopping extra-curricular activities, as much as possible
- Restricting all staff from working in other schools

How will I know if my child can attend school during a COVID-19 Outbreak?

Your school or childcare will notify you if your child's classroom or school/childcare will be closed. Anyone identified as a close contact of a case of COVID-19 will be advised to leave the school or

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childcare and to self-isolate at home. DRHD will follow-up with all identified contacts for further assessment and provide recommendations for testing and/or return to school/childcare.

How do I know when the COVID-19 Outbreak is over?

DRHD will work closely with your school or childcare to manage the outbreak. The school or childcare will be resolved from the outbreak when:

- It has been at least 14 days from the last outbreak associated positive case; **and**
- No further symptomatic individuals have pending COVID-19 test results.

How can I prevent COVID-19

Follow these steps to help protect yourself from COVID-19:

- wear a [non-medical mask or face covering](#)
- wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- sneeze and cough into your sleeve
- avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- avoid contact with people who are sick
- stay home and [self-isolate](#) if you are sick
- use physical distancing
- get [vaccinated for COVID-19](#), if eligible

It is important to monitor your child/children for symptoms of illness and complete the COVID-19 screening tool which can be found at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/> before sending your child to school or childcare. Do not send your child/children to school or childcare if they are ill. If symptoms of COVID-19 develop, seek testing at a local COVID-19 Assessment Centre. You can book an appointment for COVID-19 testing in Durham Region by completing the online assessment form at covidswab.lh.ca or <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/assessment-centre-locations>.

Common COVID-19 symptoms include fever (temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), chills, new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, new decreased or loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea (not caused by other known causes or conditions).

Other symptoms of COVID-19 in adults 18 years and older can include fatigue, lethargy (feeling unwell, lack of energy or extreme tiredness), muscle aches and pain (not caused by other known causes or conditions).

- For more information about COVID-19 please visit www.durham.ca/COVID19
- For more information about school-reopening information please visit: www.durham.ca/schoolsreopening

September 3, 2021

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