



Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



COVID-19: Reopening of Schools

The Ministry of Education has released a **Guide to Reopening Ontario Schools** advising that all students and staff must self-screen every day before attending school (<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>). If a student or staff member is experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, they must stay home and seek medical advice from their Health Care Provider including the recommendation of testing for COVID-19.

If a child has stable symptoms of a medical condition, they may attend school. Some schools **may** require a note from a HCP indicating that these are symptoms of a stable condition.

If a student or staff member feels sick, or develops symptoms while at school, schools will:

- Separate the individual from others and contact the family to arrange pick-up.
- Direct the individual to **seek medical advice from their Health Care Provider** including the recommendation of testing for COVID-19 as appropriate or as advised by their medical provider.
- Refer patients to **Facts about... What do I do if my child is sick?**
- Allow siblings/staff of an ill individual to remain in school until further medical advice is received but advise them to self-monitor for symptoms (see [Facts about... COVID-19 Self-Monitoring](#)).
- Permit staff and/or students with a diagnosis other than COVID-19 to return to school once they are symptom-free for 24 hours.

Who should get tested for COVID-19?

Symptomatic individuals with a least one symptom or sign of COVID-19 should be considered for PCR testing for COVID-19.

Common COVID-19 symptoms include fever (temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), new or worsening cough and shortness of breath. Other symptoms of COVID-19 can include sore throat, difficulty swallowing, changes to sense of taste and/or smell, nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain and runny nose, or nasal congestion (not caused by seasonal allergies).

Atypical symptoms of COVID-19 should be considered, particularly in children, older persons, and people living with a developmental disability. Atypical symptoms can include unexplained fatigue, body aches, delirium, unexplained or increased number of falls, acute functional decline, exacerbation of chronic conditions, chills, headaches, croup, conjunctivitis, and multisystem inflammatory vasculitis in children.

Symptoms of multisystem inflammatory vasculitis in children may include persistent fever, abdominal pain, conjunctivitis, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and rash.

905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | durham.ca/health

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.



How do I arrange testing for COVID-19 for one of my patients?

To book an appointment for COVID-19 in Durham Region, clients complete the online assessment form at covidswab.lh.ca.

For a full list of COVID-19 assessment center locations visit <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/assessment-centre-locations/>.

If you become aware of a client you have seen in your office in the last 14-days being diagnosed with COVID-19, please contact Durham Region Health Department at 905-668-7711 ext. 2996, seven days a week from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm. After hours please call 905-576-9991. **These numbers are for health care providers only. Please do not provide these numbers to your patients.**

We have a dedicated School Reopening Toolkit website with resources and FAQs for parents and guardians. Please visit durham.ca/schoolsreopening.

General inquiries regarding COVID-19 can be found on www.durham.ca/novelcoronavirus or call the Durham Health Connection Line at 905 668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729.

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