

February 21, 2021

Ottawa Public Health would like to inform you that the Province has made updates to screening requirements for COVID-19 for the School and Child Care Setting. As a result, The OPH [COVID-19 Screening Tool for School or Child Care](#) and the [COVID-19 Screening Tool for High School Students](#) have been updated. A more cautious approach has been adopted in response to the new variants of the COVID-19 virus that have been identified within Ontario. The new COVID-19 variants transmit more easily, therefore additional precautions are needed to prevent the spread within the community.

The changes to this screening tool are as follows:

### **NEW- Single-Symptom Screening**

Students and children with **any** new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19, **even those with only one symptom**, must stay home (self-isolate) until:

- They receive a negative COVID-19 test result, their symptom(s) are improving, they have no fever, and they are feeling well enough to go to school; or
- OR, if the child does not get tested, it has been 10 days since the onset of their symptom(s), symptoms are improving, they have no fever and they are feeling better.
- They receive an alternative diagnosis from a health care professional.

### **NEW- Guidelines Regarding Travel Outside of Canada:**

**In the last 14 days has your child been in close physical contact with someone who returned from outside of Canada?** If the response is YES, a period of 14 days of self-isolation may be required. Stay home and call Ottawa Public Health 613-580-6744 for further instructions.

### **NEW- Requirements for Household Members of High-Risk Contacts without Symptoms**

High-risk contacts are individuals who have had a close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

- **If you live in the same household as someone who has been deemed a high-risk contact** (has had close contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19) **and who is without symptoms (asymptomatic)**, you must stay home except for essential reasons for the duration of the high-risk contact's self-isolation period. Essential reasons include: attending work/school/childcare and essential errands such as groceries, attending medical appointments or picking up prescriptions.

### **Reminder for Isolation Requirements for Household Contacts of Individuals with Symptoms**

**ALL** household contacts of individuals with new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19 are required to self-isolate until the individual with symptoms receives a negative COVID-19 test result or an alternative diagnosis by a health care professional.

If the individual with symptoms does not seek COVID-19 testing, they must self-isolate for 10 days from their onset of symptoms and **ALL** household members must self-isolate for **14 days** from their last contact with the symptomatic individual.

**IMPORTANT:** As a parent, you must screen your child for COVID-19 every day before attending school to keep our schools safe places to learn and grow. The COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening Tool will help you decide if your child should or should not attend school and the next steps to take.