

Given the current demand for **COVID-19 testing**, Ottawa Public Health wants to provide clear directions on recommendations for **who needs to be tested** for COVID-19 in a school setting:

The current priority for testing includes:

- Any person (adult or child) with **COVID-19 like symptoms**.
- Any person that Ottawa Public Health (OPH) has identified as a **high-risk contact**. A high risk contact is typically someone who had a prolonged exposure in close proximity to a person diagnosed with COVID-19. You would be notified that you are a high-risk contact by OPH through a phone call, email, or an automated message.



To be clear, COVID-19 testing is currently NOT recommended for:

- Individuals without symptoms, unless you have been identified as a high risk contact by OPH.
- Family members without symptoms, who have other family members that have symptoms.
- Family members without symptoms, who have other family members that are identified as a high-risk contact.
- Students and staff members in schools who don't have symptoms and who have not been notified by OPH that they are high-risk contacts.



OPH has developed a **Screening Tool** to help parents and guardians make decisions about whether their child can attend school/child care. This screening tool found on our website: [OttawaPublicHealth.ca/SchoolsCOVID19](https://ottawapublichealth.ca/SchoolsCOVID19) should be completed daily **before** attending school/child care for **each** individual child **separately**.