

# Return to School or Child Care Protocols

## When Isolation is Required Because of Symptoms

Updated  
February 8, 2022

**Note:** Medical notes are not required to return to school but all required conditions must be met. There is no requirement for parents/guardian(s) to report their child's PCR/RAT to the school or childcare.

### Child/Student/Staff **Tests Negative** for COVID-19 with Either a PCR or 2 Rapid Antigen Tests

If a single PCR test is negative or **two** consecutive rapid antigen tests (RATs) collected 24 to 48 hours apart are both negative, the child/student/staff may return to school or child care if **all of these conditions are met:**

- Their symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours after nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea symptoms), whichever is longest,
- They do not have a fever (without using medication),
- They feel well enough to attend, AND
- They pass the daily screening.

### Child/Student/Staff is Symptomatic and **Not Tested** for COVID-19 or **Tests Positive** for COVID-19

When an individual is experiencing symptom(s) of COVID-19 (as listed in the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 Reference Document for Symptoms) and **does not** have access to rapid antigen tests (RAT) or a PCR test, this individual is presumed to have COVID-19 based on their symptoms and must isolate.

When an individual tests positive for COVID-19 on a single PCR test or RAT, they likely have COVID-19 and must self-isolate. A positive RAT does not need to be confirmed by a PCR test.

#### Age 11 years or younger **OR fully vaccinated**

The child/student/staff **must isolate for 5 days** from their positive test date or from when their symptoms started, whichever is earlier. They must have no fever and their symptoms must be improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours if nausea/vomiting/diarrhea) before returning to school.

#### Age 12+ years and partially vaccinated or unvaccinated **OR immune compromised**

The child/student/staff **must isolate for 10 days** from their positive test date or from when their symptoms started, whichever is earlier. They must have no fever and their symptoms must be improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours if nausea/vomiting/diarrhea) before returning to school.

### Household Members:

Asymptomatic household members can return to school when all symptomatic people/positive cases in the home have finished their isolation or tested negative on a PCR test or **two** consecutive RATs.

**Note:** Initial symptomatic household member(s) do not have to extend their self-isolation period based on other household members becoming ill. Household members who have tested positive in the last 90 days are not required to self-isolate, unless they develop symptoms.

### COVID-19 Testing

Take home PCR self collection kits or rapid antigen tests should be available to all children/students/staff from their school. At this time, it is not recommended or required that students seek testing from pharmacies or community assessment centres.