

# COVID-19 Screening Tool for Children

Before leaving for school today, do a quick check for symptoms.  
This symptom check should be done every morning.

Does your child have any of the following?



**Fever**  
(= or >37.8°C)



**New or worsening cough\***



**Difficulty breathing**



**Sore throat**



**Runny\*\* or stuffy nose\*\*, or pink eye**



**Loss of taste or smell**



**Headache, chills, fatigue, malaise, or muscle aches**



**Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea**



**Sluggishness\*\*\* or lack of appetite\*\*\***

In the past 14 days, has your child...



...been in close contact with someone who has confirmed COVID-19?



...returned from travel outside Canada?

**If YES is answered to any of the symptoms or questions above, your child should not go to school and must self-isolate.**

**The child is also recommended to be tested for COVID-19 at an assessment centre.**

\* Not more than usual, if a chronic cough.

\*\* Not caused by an underlying reason such as allergies post nasal drip, etc.

\*\*\* Atypical symptom for young children and infants.

Adapted with permission from Toronto Public Health

## COVID-19 Infection in Children

Children across all age groups are susceptible to COVID-19. Children tend to have milder infections than adults. The most common symptoms in children include cough, fever, sore throat, diarrhea, difficulty breathing, vomiting, nasal congestion, and abdominal pain. Some children may have COVID-19 without having any symptoms.<sup>1</sup>

### What if my child does not have any symptoms but feels unwell?

Children who screen negative but still report that they feel unwell must stay home from school and monitor for additional symptoms. If they continue to screen negative (i.e. the answer to all screening questions continues to be 'NO') then after 24 hours they may return to school if they are feeling better.

### What if someone in the household is symptomatic or has travelled internationally?

- If a household member is sick with COVID-19 **OR** has symptoms compatible with COVID-19, your child is a household close contact and should stay home.
- If a household member is sick (has been diagnosed by a health care provider with something other than COVID-19), your child is able to go to school as long as they feel well.
- If a household member has travelled internationally, has been self-isolating for 14 days upon return, and is not showing any symptoms, your child is able to go to school.
- If a household member is an essential worker that has travelled internationally for work, and is not showing any symptoms, your child is able to go to school.

### Where can my child get tested?

Children who have one or more symptoms listed in the screening tool, should get tested at an assessment centre. To find a list of assessment centres available near you, please visit [www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca](http://www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca).

### When can my child go back to school?

Children can go back to school if they:

- have self-isolated for 14 days and symptoms have resolved **OR**,
- received a different diagnosis from a healthcare provider (e.g., strep throat, bacterial conjunctivitis) **OR**,
- received a negative COVID-19 test result received and are symptom-free for 24 hours

1. Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). COVID19 – What we know so far about .... infection in children. Toronto, ON: Queens's Printer for Ontario; 2020.