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**peterboroughpublichealth.ca**

YOUR CHILD Has covid-19 SYMPTOMS while AT

ADD SCHOOL/CHILD CARE NAME

Select date

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Your child presented with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 while at school/childcare. Guidance from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Peterborough Public Health recommends parents or guardians are contacted to take their child home when they present with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 during the day.

# Covid-19 Screening

Parents, students, staff and essential visitors must complete the provincia**l** [**school and child care screening tool**](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/)daily.

# Isolation advice for symptomatic individuals

* 1. **If symptoms include any symptom from the list below, assume your child has a COVID-19 infection** **and self-isolate immediately:**
* Fever and/or chills; OR
* Cough; OR
* Shortness of breath; OR
* Decrease or loss of taste or smell; OR
* Two or more of:
	+ runny nose/nasal congestion
	+ headache
	+ extreme fatigue
	+ sore throat
	+ muscle aches/joint pain
	+ gastrointestinal symptoms (i.e., nausea, vomiting or diarrhea)
	1. **Your child is fully vaccinated OR is under the age of 12 years old:** self-isolate for at least 5 days from symptom onset AND until their symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms), whichever is longer.
	2. **Your child is 12 years old or older AND is partially vaccinated or unvaccinated,** or if they are immune compromised: self-isolate for 10 days from symptom onset AND until their symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms), whichever is longer.

**All household members of a symptomatic person, regardless of vaccination status**, **should stay at home while the symptomatic person is isolating** – please refer to [ontario.ca/exposed](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/exposed?utm_source=mobile-app-organic&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=covid-alert-mobile-app-english&utm_content=covidalertapppage-text) for more information.

**If child has ONE of the less common symptoms** (runny nose/nasal congestion, headache, extreme fatigue, sore throat, muscle aches/joint pain, or gastrointestinal symptoms) it is less likely that they have COVID-19 infection. They should not return to school/child care until symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours (or 48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms). Household members do not need to self-isolate.

**If symptoms do not include any of the above**, your child is less likely to have COVID-19 infection; however, they should not return to school/child care until symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours (or 48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms). Household members do not need to self-isolate.

# If you have a rapid antigen test (RAT) or take-home PCR test kit

If you have access to an at-home test and your child gets a positive result, it is likely that they have COVID-19 and they must self-isolate immediately. A positive RAT does NOT need to be confirmed with a PCR test. ​​

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Your symptomatic child tested positive and is:** | **Self-isolate at home:** |
| **12 years of age or older AND partially vaccinated or unvaccinated** | * **For 10 days** from when symptoms started
 |
| **12 years of age or older AND fully vaccinated*** Fully vaccinated means they received their final dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at least 14 days ago.
 | * **For at least 5 days** from when symptoms started; if needed, continue to isolate until symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms)
 |
| **Under 12 years of age (regardless of their vaccination status)** | * **For at least 5 days** from when symptoms started; if needed, continue to isolate until symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms)
 |
| **All household members, regardless of vaccination status, must self-isolate while the person who tested positive is self-isolating.** Refer to [ontario.ca/exposed](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/exposed?utm_source=mobile-app-organic&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=covid-alert-mobile-app-english&utm_content=covidalertapppage-text) for more information.It is recommended that students/household members wear a well-fitted mask in public and do not visit anyone who is immunocompromised or at risk for illness (e.g., seniors) or any higher-risk settings (e.g., hospitals, long-term care, retirements homes, congregate living settings) for 10 days after symptom onset. |

# Negative tests

If two consecutive RATs, taken 24-48 hours apart, are both negative, the person with symptoms is less likely to have COVID-19, and they should isolate until symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours (or 48 hours if vomiting/diarrhea symptoms are present)​. Household members of the symptomatic individual with two negative tests may also discontinue isolation.

If you have a **negative PCR result**, stay home until symptom(s) have been improving for 24 hours (48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms, such as vomiting or diarrhea are present).

# Positive test - notifying close contacts

Please think about who your child had close contact with outside of your household during the 48 hours before symptoms started, or from the date of their test (whichever came sooner). Let close contacts know about their exposure and encourage them to visit [ontario.ca/exposed](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cjasanskye%5CAppData%5CRoaming%5COpenText%5CDM%5CTemp%5Contario.ca%5Cexposed).

School/child care contacts of symptomatic children/students are not generally close contacts due to the health and safety measures in place in school/child care. However, there may be cases where specific individuals are identified as a close contact\* based on their prolonged, unprotected, close interactions with the case.

*\*A close contact is anyone you were less than two meters away from for at least 15 minutes, or multiple shorter lengths of time, without personal protective equipment (e.g. masks) in the 48 hours before your symptoms began or your positive test result, whichever came first, until your isolation began.*

**There is no requirement for parent(s)/guardian(s) to report their child’s PCR/RAT results to the school or child care as part of absence reporting.**

# Covid-19 Vaccines

COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective and the best way to protect you and those around you from serious illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19.

Peterborough Public Health encourages all individuals five years of age and older (born in 2016 or earlier) to get a COVID-19 vaccine. Visit [peterboroughpublichealth.ca/vaccineclinics](https://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca/vaccineclinics) to learn more and find a vaccine clinic.

# Remember to Practice Infection Prevention and Control Measures at Home

* Continue to practice proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette at home too
* Increase cleaning and disinfection in the home, especially in shared spaces and areas
* Frequently clean and disinfect high touch surfaces such as taps and doorknobs
* Ensure rooms have good air flow (e.g., open windows if weather permits and if safe to do so)
* Avoid sharing personal items and other household items with the symptomatic person
* Designate a separate washroom for the symptomatic person, if possible
* All parties should wear a mask, if they need to be in the same room/space as the symptomatic child
* The caregiver of the symptomatic child is recommended to also wear eye protection and mask when providing care

# Resources

* [COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening Tool](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/)

* [Peterborough Public Health Vaccine Clinics](http://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca/vaccineclinics)
* [Hand Sanitizing for Kids](http://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2020_07_29-Hand-Sanitizing-for-Kids.pdf) and [Handwashing for Kids](http://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2020_07_29-Handwashing-for-Kids.pdf)
* [How to Care for a Child who Needs To Self-Isolate (publichealthontario.ca)](https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/factsheet/2021/04/child-isolation/fact-sheet-self-isolation-child.pdf?sc_lang=en)

If you have any questions or concerns, please visit [peterboroughpublichealth.ca/covid19](https://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca/novel-coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-information-for-summer-camps/?highlight=camps). You can also visit [peterboroughpublichealth.ca/schoolreopening](http://www.peterboroughpublichealth.ca/schoolreopening) for more information.