COVID-19 Guidance for Parents of Children Attending School and/or Childcare

Your child has one or more of these COVID-19 symptoms that are new, worsening or not related to other known causes: Chills • Sore throat or painful swallowing • Runny nose or congestion • Feeling unwell or fatigued • Nausea or vomiting or diarrhea • Unexplained loss of appetite • Muscle or joint aches • Headache • Conjunctivitis (pink eye)

Note: Chronic symptoms that can be explained by a pre-existing medical condition (e.g. allergies) would be considered part of the child’s baseline health status. As long as these symptoms do not change, the child can continue to attend school/childcare. A child should have one negative COVID-19 test to establish this baseline.

Guidance

Your child should not attend school / childcare if they are feeling unwell

Your child has two or more symptom groups (listed above)

Yes

Your child has one symptom group (listed above)

Wait and stay home for 24 Hours

After 24 hours, has your child developed additional symptoms from other groups?

No

Has your child’s symptom improved in past 24 hours?

No

Yes

A COVID-19 test is recommended

Decide if your child will be tested for COVID-19

No

Before you have your child’s test result

Do:

Book a COVID-19 test for your child
  • Online: ahs.ca/covid
  • By phone: Call Health Link at 811

Try to book a test that is within 24 hours of your child’s symptoms starting

Before you have your child’s test result

Do:

Go to the COVID-19 test with your child

Test Result

Get your child’s COVID-19 test result

It may take 1 to 3 days to get your child’s test result

• All individuals who test positive for COVID-19 will be contacted by AHS
• For more information about getting your child’s COVID-19 test result, go to ahs.ca/results

Positive Test Result

Have you been told by AHS that your child is a close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19?

No

Yes

Negative Test Result

Have you been told by AHS that your child is a close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19?

No

Yes

Next Steps

What to do

If your child feels better while waiting to receive their test result, they can return to school, as long as they are not a close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19.

What to do

Your child is legally required to stay home and isolate for at least 10 days from the start of symptoms.

Visit ahs.ca/isolation for more information.

Household members must stay home and quarantine for 14 days from their last exposure to the child.

What to do

Your child can attend school / childcare and other public places when:
  • the symptom(s) have resolved AND
  • it has been at least 24 hours since the symptom(s) started.

What to do

Your child is legally required to stay home and quarantine for 14 days from their last exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19.

If your child’s symptoms remain after these 14 days have passed, they should stay home from school, childcare and other public places until they feel better.

Household members are not required to quarantine as long as they are asymptomatic.

What to do

Your child can attend school / childcare and other public places when:
  • they feel well enough AND
  • it has been at least 24 hours since the symptom started.