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This document is intended to support school boards and school authorities in preparation for the safe reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year. This document will also apply to childcare centres and before/after school programs that operate within schools.

In the event of a discrepancy between this Guidance and a Directive of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Directive prevails.

The Ministry of Educa

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staff, essential visitor, or anyone else in the school during the outbreak)

no further symptomatic individuals with tests pending

## Outbreak responsibilities

As part of the outbreak response, there should be well understood roles, responsibilities, and processes to ensure effective outbreak



# school hours

**This section applies to students, staff or other members or visitors to the school community, who become ill during the school day and on school premises.**

Students should be made aware, in age-appropriate and non-stigmatizing language, how to identify symptoms of COVID-19 and should be instructed to speak to a staff member immediately if they feel ill.

Schools should maintain a personal protective equipment (PPE) kit specifically for managing students or others who become ill during school hours.

If an individual, including students, staff, contractors, visitors, parents, guardians, becomes ill while at school, including before and after school care affiliated with the school, it is recommended that:

anyone providing care to the ill individual should maintain the \* IQ iT Q

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**A list of students and staff in the school who were in contact with/in the same cohort as the ill individual should be prepared.** Those who are identified as potential close contacts should remain cohorted. The local PHU will provide any further direction on testing and isolation of these contacts, if necessary. In most instances testing and isolation would only be recommended for contacts of a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis.

## **becomes ill during the school day**

The following actions also apply to an individual, including students, staff, contractors, visitors, parents or guardians, who becomes ill while at school, including before and after school care affiliated with the school.

### **Recommended action by teacher**

The teacher should:

- be aware of symptom descriptions and alert the principal if a student is ill

- continue to monitor students and themselves for symptoms

### **Recommended action by principal**

The principal should:

- coordinate immediate student pick-up and designate an area to isolate the student until parent/guardian arrival

- advise student and any staff attending to them to use provided PPE kit

- advise student to remain at home and continue with remote learning, if they are well enough to do so

- if required, advise entire staff of the concern while protecting confidentiality and responding with sensitivity in the circumstances

- as required, contact Superintendent and make them aware of the situation

- ensure/coordinate environmental cleaning and/or disinfection of the space and items used by the individual(s)

- monitor school population for possible new/additional illnesses

- report in the daily attendance tracking tool as necessary



## **Recommended action by school board**

The superintendent should:

- inform the board COVID-19 lead and others at the board of ce as required

- provide support to the school principal as needed

The board COVID lead should:

- continue to monitor attendance and student absences at the board level

## **Recommended action by parent and student**

The parent and student should:

- Follow guidance of health care provider.

- Follow guidance under Return to School

**This section applies to individuals closely related to a school community, such as bus drivers, parents or members of a student s or staff member s household, who test positive for COVID-19 outside of the school.**

Situations will arise where students, staf, or teachers may be exposed to COVID-19 outside of the school environment (for example, to family members that don't attend the school, social contacts outside of school).

Household members and others who live with the individual who has tested positive should isolate for 14 days.

Schools should have necessary arrangements in place to support continuity of education for students who require isolation.

## **Scenario: School bus driver becomes ill during the work day**

### **Recommended action by bus driver**

The bus driver should:

## **Recommended action by principal**

The principal should:

communicate with the Consortia as required and maintain situational awareness

update school board COVID-19 lead as required

## **Recommended action by school board**

The board COVID-19 lead should:

stay connected with the consortium to maintain situational awareness for bus operations of the board and bus driver illnesses

The superintendent should:

inform the board COVID-19 lead, others as required and support principal as needed

# **Scenario: School bus driver tests positive for**

## **Recommended action by bus driver**

The bus driver should:

notify employer

consult health care provider and follow recommendations

follow guidelines on return to work

communicate with impacted schools, school boards and communities as appropriate

### **Recommended action by parent and student**

The parent and student should:

- Adhere to direction provided by local PHU

- continue to adhere to current infection prevention, control practices and advice provided by local public health

### **Recommended action by school board**

The board COVID-19 lead should:

- continue to monitor the situation and liaise with the Ministry of Education as necessary

The superintendent should:

- inform the board Covid-19 lead, others as required and support principal as needed

## **Scenario: Parent tests**

**This scenario applies to anyone who shares a household with a student or staff member in a school community.**

If a parent receives a positive test for COVID-19, he or she is not obligated to inform the school of their test result. However, it is strongly recommended.

Children in a household where a parent or other member has tested positive should stay home and isolate for 14 days.

The PHU would provide direction to close contacts, including household members of a person diagnosed with COVID-19.

The PHU would provide direction to the school principal on the actions to be taken with the school, depending on the circumstances of the positive COVID case.

Note: Testing recommendations are made by an individual's health care provider and PHU.

### **Recommended action by teacher**

The teacher should:

- support continuation of learning for any students who need to isolate if necessary

## Recommended action by principal

The principal should:

if student is in the school, when notified by the parent, coordinate immediate student pick-up and designate an area to isolate the student until pickup

ask that the student follow the direction of their health care provider and PHU

ensure student portfolio information (that a io hat t a io S

**This section applies to a student, staff**

# student has tested

## Recommended action by teacher

The teacher should:

- ensure continuation of learning for the student

- continue to monitor students and themselves for symptoms





ensure and coordinate environmental cleaning and/or disinfection of the space and items used by the individual(s)

support planning for possible online learning

inform transportation of accommodations as needed

inform special education superintendent or designate of accommodations as requested

engage and support in updating the IEP as necessary

## **Recommended action by school board**

The school board should:

with partners, ensure consistent practices across the system regarding students with special education needs (that is, access by regulated health professionals and service providers

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should report your child's absence from school by contacting us at: [Insert details on reporting student absence]. Students who become ill during the day will be isolated and must be picked up from school as soon as possible. Symptomatic students will not be able to use student transportation.

Please consult the **Ministry of Health s COVID-19 reference document for symptoms** for other clinical features of COVID-19 and when atypical signs and symptoms of COVID-19 should be considered, particularly in children.

If you're worried your child or any member of your household has been exposed to COVID-19 or has symptoms, you use **Ministry of Health s Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool**. You

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School Board:

<b>Ministry of Education regional contact:</b>	<b>Board COVID-19 Lead:</b>
Of ce:	Of ce:
Cell:	Cell:
Email:	Email:

**Contact name in the local public health unit:**

Of ce:

Cell:

Email:







