

SUBJECT: Management of Symptomatic Students and Household Contacts

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To: Physicians, Hospital Emergency Departments, Primary Care Providers, Assessment Centres

From: Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health and CEO

Please see the table below which outlines how to manage COVID-19 related symptoms in student and household contacts (e.g. siblings) for five separate scenarios.

Scenario	Direction for Symptomatic Student	Direction for Household Contacts
Student Develops Symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symptomatic student is sent home from school • Symptomatic student → Self-Isolate (should include self-isolation from household members) • Testing is recommended and student should self-isolate while test results pending 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Screen the sibling and household members using the COVID-19 School Screening Tool ○ If they screen negative, they may remain at school and continue to Self Monitor ○ If they screen positive, they must isolate and be sent home. Advise to go for testing.
While Test is Pending	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symptomatic student → Self-Isolate (should include self-isolation from household members) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Screen the sibling and household members using the COVID-19 School Screening Tool ○ If they screen negative, they may remain at school and continue to Self Monitor ○ If they screen positive, they must isolate and be sent home. Advise to go for testing.
Test is Negative	<p>Student can return to school when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24hr symptom-free (mild symptoms may persist in children i.e. runny nose – but can return to school if other symptoms resolved) • Pass COVID-19 School Screening Tool <p>When an alternate diagnosis is made, the WDGPH Childhood Illness Reference Guide for Schools and Child care Centres should be consulted for exclusion periods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Screen the sibling and household members using the COVID-19 School Screening Tool ○ If they screen negative, they may remain at school and continue to Self Monitor ○ If they screen positive, they must isolate and be sent home. Advise to go for testing.

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<p>Test is Positive</p>	<p>Student can return to school when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14-day self-isolation from onset of symptoms (or test date if asymptomatic) AND • Afebrile AND • Symptoms improving for >72 hrs AND • Pass COVID-19 School Screening Tool 	<p>Asymptomatic Household Contacts/Siblings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Self-Isolate x 14 days from last contact or 14 days from test date of confirmed case as applicable ○ May return to school after isolation is complete AND can pass the <u>COVID-19 School Screening Tool</u> ○ Advise to self-isolate and go for testing if symptoms develop
<p>Testing is Refused</p>	<p>Self-Isolate x14 days, unless ALL the following apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Care Provider provides an alternative diagnosis • Afebrile (without medication) • Symptoms improving for >24hr <p>When an alternate diagnosis is made, the <u>WDGPH Childhood Illness Reference Guide for Schools and Child care Centres</u> should be consulted for exclusion periods</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Screen the sibling and household members using the <u>COVID-19 School Screening Tool</u> ○ If they screen negative, they may remain at school and continue to Self Monitor ○ If they screen positive, they must isolate and be sent home. Advise to go for testing.

References

1. Ontario Ministry of Health. COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance Update. [Internet]. 2020 Aug 14 [cited 2020 Sept 16]. Available from: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_testing_guidance.pdf
2. Ontario Ministry of Health. COVID-19 School Screening. [Internet]. 2020 Sept 14 [cited 2020 Sept 16]. Available from: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

For more information, please contact:

Program: COVID-19 Call Centre
Phone: 1-800-265-7293 ext. 7006
Website: www.wdgpulichealth.ca