

COVID-19

School Re-Opening Plans

**For the Publically Funded School Boards in
Toronto**

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Novel (new) coronavirus presents as an acute respiratory illness. **COVID-19** is the disease that develops from the **coronavirus**.

Corona Virus Disease-2019 (year of the outbreak).

Symptoms can take 2 to 14 days after exposure to develop.



Fever



Cough



Difficulty breathing



**Sore throat,
trouble swallowing**



**Runny nose or
red eyes**



**Loss of taste or
smell**



**Not feeling well,
tired or sore muscles**



**Nausea, vomiting,
diarrhea**

COVID-19 symptoms may be different, for children & older adults. Some may also have non-specific symptoms, such as:

- disorientation, confusion
- sleeping more than usual or muscle aches
- dizziness, weakness or falls
- chills, headaches

COVID-19 in Children

Children with COVID-19 usually have mild symptoms, including:

- ✓ Fever
- ✓ Cough
- ✓ Sore throat
- ✓ Feeling unwell

If your child has difficulty breathing, talk to your health care provider.



It is rare, but some may get an inflammatory condition. Watch for:

- ✓ Fever, lasting several days
- ✓ Tummy ache, vomiting, diarrhea
- ✓ Pink eyes
- ✓ Rash

If your child experiences any of these, talk to your health care provider.

- older adults, 70 years +
- persons receiving treatment that may weaken their immunity (e.g. dialysis, surgery, cancer treatment)
- persons with an autoimmune disorder (e.g. lupus, rheumatoid arthritis)
- persons with a chronic health condition (e.g. diabetes, emphysema, asthma, heart disease)

How Infection Spreads

- **From respiratory droplets** when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes
- Droplets from singing or projecting voices across a room can travel beyond 2 metres
- **Touching contaminated surfaces** or objects then touching their mouth, nose, or eyes - depending on the material of the surface, virus can “live” up to 72 hours.

- Health screening of staff/students everyday
- Stay home if sick, even with mild symptoms
- Wash or sanitize hands often
- Do not touch face with unwashed hands
- Frequent cleaning & disinfecting
- Avoid Prolonged close contact
- Maintain physical distancing (2 metres)
- Wear a mask/face covering when unable to maintain a 2 metre physical distance
- Use of barriers (e.g. plexiglass)

Maintaining safe schools are extremely important. However, care must to be taken to avoid stigmatizing students and staff who may be exposed to the virus. Schools should continue to be a welcoming, respectful, inclusive and supportive environment for all.

Ontario Prepares for the Safe Reopening of Schools

- **Normal school day routine** with enhanced public health protocols
- **Modified school day routine** - an adapted delivery model
- **At home learning** - Remote education-online

- a) **Health screening** for COVID-19 symptoms
- b) **Physical distancing** signs and floor markers to remind everyone to stay 2 metres apart
- c) **Practice frequent hand hygiene** & respiratory etiquette (cough into elbow/ tissue)
- d) **Use of a mask/** face covering
- e) **Control measures:** restrict entrances; move furniture; install barriers, etc.
- f) **Enhanced cleaning & disinfection** of high touched surfaces and washrooms

Health Screening for COVID-19 Symptoms



Do you have any of the following:



Fever



Cough



Difficulty breathing



Sore throat,
trouble swallowing



Runny nose or
red eyes



Loss of taste or
smell



Not feeling well,
tired or sore muscles



Nausea, vomiting,
diarrhea



Have you been in close contact with someone who is sick or has confirmed COVID-19 in the past 14 days?



Have you returned from travel outside Canada in the past 14 days?



If you answered YES to any of these questions, go home & self-isolate right away. Call Telehealth or your health care provider, to find out if you need a test.

Students, volunteers and staff should:

- complete a health screening questionnaire everyday before coming into the school.
- Not attend school and go to a primary care provider or an assessment center for testing if sick/have signs symptoms of COVID-19

Adapt Policies for Illness

- Develop flexible attendance & sick leave policies that encourage students and staff to stay home when sick or caring for sick family members.
- People with COVID-19, can return to work 14 days after their symptoms first appear, as long as symptoms are mostly gone.

There are no tests or clearance letter required for return to work/school.

Suspected cases

- If staff/student has COVID-19 symptoms, they are to go to an assessment center and get tested
 - If test is negative :Can return to work/school 24 hours after symptoms go away, as long as not self-isolating for other reasons.
- If staff becomes ill while they are at school, they are to go home and self isolate. If they can't they should be isolated from others in a separate room
- If student develops COVID symptoms while in school-immediately separated from others in a separate room until picked up.
- Room is disinfected after the individual leaves

- Track student and staff absenteeism and compare against usual absenteeism patterns at the school.
- Alert local public health about large increases in student/staff absenteeism due to respiratory illnesses.
- Confirmed cases are reported by the lab to Toronto Public Health.

Contact Tracing and Outbreak Considerations for Schools

To support contact tracing schools must

- Keep daily records of anyone entering the school setting (name, contact info, time of arrival/departure, screening completed etc.)
- Public Health Units will follow up with all positive cases and perform a risk assessment of their contacts.
- Outbreak considerations for schools.
- What is TPH Role/Schools Role?
- If schools have any questions call 416-338-7600

- Develop procedures that support physical distancing. Physical distancing of two meters must be maintained.
- Classrooms set up with 2 metres distance
- Designated routes for student to and from classroom
- Visual cues/physical guides
- Stagger student movement

Cohorts in the Modified School Routine

- Classes must be cohorted (15 or few students per classroom with alternate day or week delivery)
- Close contact may be unavoidable between members of cohorts. For older students physical distance should be maintained
- Cohorts that share a space should be 2 meters apart .
- Cohorts alternate the use of a space ie a classroom should be cleaned between cohorts. Make plans to prevent mixing of cohorts
- Limit rotating teachers
- Cohorts should eat lunch in class together

Limit gatherings

- Large gatherings/assemblies should be cancelled
- Outdoor gatherings are less risky than indoor gatherings
- Encourage the use of virtual tools
- Line ups to get in and leave the school need attention

Why Wear a Mask?

My mask
protects you
& your mask
protects me.

Protect each other. Wear a mask.



How to wear a non-medical mask

HOW TO SAFELY WEAR A CLOTH MASK OR FACE COVERING

1

An illustration showing two hands being washed under a running faucet. The hands are covered in blue soap suds.

Before putting on the mask, wash your hands & secure hair away from your face.

2

An illustration of a person's head and shoulders in profile, wearing a purple cloth mask. Yellow arrows point to the mask's edges, indicating it should fit snugly.

Place the mask snugly over your mouth & nose, making sure there are no gaps.

3

An illustration of a person wearing a yellow cloth mask. A red circle with a white 'X' is placed over the mask, indicating that one should avoid touching the face and mask.

Avoid touching your face & mask while using it. Do not leave the mask on your neck, forehead or hanging from your ear.

4

An illustration of a person wearing a purple cloth mask. A blue water drop and a yellow arrow point to the mask, indicating it should be changed when damp or soiled.

Change your mask as soon as it gets damp or soiled.

5

An illustration of a person removing a yellow cloth mask by the ear loops. A yellow arrow points to the loops, indicating that the outside of the mask should not be touched.

Remove the mask without touching the outside of the mask & launder it before wearing again.

6

An illustration showing a hand in a blue glove being washed with white soap suds. There are also white starburst shapes around the hand, indicating cleanliness.

Wash your hands & clean any surfaces that the dirty mask touches.

DOES A FACE SHIELD OFFER THE SAME PROTECTION AS A MASK?

No, wearing a mask provides better protection in indoor, public spaces & keeps your germs from spreading to others.



A face shield can protect your eyes from someone else's germs, but does not always keep your germs from spreading to others.



Wear a mask in enclosed public spaces and keep 6 feet distance from others.



- School Boards to develop a program for cleaning and disinfection of schools.
- Frequently touched surfaces should be cleaned at least twice daily- at any interval- eg one in day, one end of day/evening
- Refer to [Health Canada's Hard Surface Disinfectants](#) and hand sanitizers approved products
- Deep cleaning is not required

- School bus drivers/monitors/aids should not report to work if they have symptoms or have been exposed to COVID-19
- Maintain Physical Distance between students on school vehicles by reducing school bus capacity
 - Could it be less than 2 metres?
- Students from the same household can share seats
- If students develop symptoms at school they should not take the school bus home and be picked up by a parent/guardian
- ?masks?

- Information should be shared with all parties.
- Communicate via website, voice mail/ text, letter to staff, parents and stakeholders.
- Post signs at building entrances and common areas.
- Posters available on our City of Toronto [COVID-19; Spread The Word](#) website

How to Stay Safe



Staying at home and away from others if you are feeling ill



Washing your hands frequently with soap and water



Maintaining physical distancing of at least two metres from people outside your immediate household in public



Using an alcohol-based sanitizer if soap and water are not available



Practising good hygiene (avoiding touching your face and covering your cough or sneeze)



Wearing a face covering in public where physical distancing is a challenge or not possible



Limiting outings and public gatherings as per emergency orders



Increasing cleaning of frequently touched surfaces



Minimizing travel and self-isolating for 14 days after all international travel



Working remotely or redesigning spaces and interactions to make them safer



Getting tested if you are worried you have or have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19



Protecting the most vulnerable

- Hospital for Sick Kids advice to the Ministry.
- students have different teachers in the morning and afternoon. Does this cause concern for TPH?
- In measuring some of our classrooms, we cannot have 15 students in the class and keep 6 feet distance
- Can any of our groups be above 15. We do have classes that are 31-34 in size.

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From Toronto Public Health

City of Toronto [COVID-19](#) Website. Retrieved July 2020

Ontario Ministry of Education (2020) [Approach for re-opening schools for the 2020-21 school year](#)

World Health Organization (WHO) (March 2020)
[Key Message and Actions for COVID-19 Prevention and Control in Schools.](#)