

October 5, 2020

To: Parents, guardians and staff of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board

This letter describes important changes to COVID-19 screening and how positive cases in your school will be handled. Please read this letter carefully and speak to your school principal for more information.

Health Services

PO Box 630
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tel: 905-799-7700

peelregion.ca

1. Immediate dismissal if there's a positive COVID-19 case in a class or cohort (e.g. bus, before and after school program, extra-curricular activity).

Starting today, if there is a confirmed positive COVID-19 case in a class or cohort, the students and the teacher in the class must go home immediately. Please have a plan for your child to be picked up during the school day in these situations.

Students and staff in the class or cohort must self-isolate at home while Peel Public Health investigates the case. Other students (including siblings of the isolated cohort) and staff may continue to attend school if they do not have symptoms.

If our investigation reveals that testing is needed, we will provide you with further information on testing and when you can safely return to school. If students or staff develop any symptoms, testing is strongly recommended.

If the investigation reveals low risk of spread, you will be informed when the class or cohort may return to school.

2. Use the newly updated [COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening tool](#) before going to school every day.

The attached online screening tool has two sets of **new or worsening** symptoms not related to other known causes or conditions to guide COVID-19 testing.

Students with:

- Any **one symptom** of fever, cough, shortness of breath and loss of taste of smell should be tested for COVID-19
- Any **one symptom** of sore throat, stuffy/runny nose, headache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue or muscle aches must stay at home for at least 24 hours from when the symptoms started. If the symptom is improving, they may return when they feel well enough. If the student develops **two of these symptoms, or one symptom persists (e.g. stays the same) or worsens**, students should be tested for COVID-19

If you're unsure if you should be tested for COVID-19, speak to your health care provider. If your health care provider recommends testing and the student does

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not get tested, the student must self-isolate for ten days at home from the start of their symptoms.

Students with symptoms who are tested for COVID-19 and their household members must isolate at home while waiting for the test result.

If the test is negative, students and staff may return to school if **all** of the following apply:

- they do not have a fever (without using medication)
- it has been at least 24 hours since their symptoms started improving
- they were not in close contact with someone who currently has COVID-19

For information on where to book a testing appointment in Peel region, visit:

<https://www.peelregion.ca/coronavirus/testing/#assess>

3. Stay home if someone in your home is sick.

Everyone in your household must stay home if anyone in your house has any COVID-19 symptoms where testing is recommended by the COVID-19 screening tool or a health care provider. Everyone must stay home until the sick person has gotten a negative test result.

Doing your part to check for symptoms every day before going to school and staying at home if you or your household member has COVID-19 symptoms are essential steps to keep schools safe. These measures act as an extra line of defense that works with Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board's already strong controls to reduce the risk of spread inside your school.

We recognize these steps may be very disruptive to you and your family. We can stop the spread of COVID-19, but only if we all work together. Thank you for helping keep your family and school community safer.

Sincerely,



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