

October 4, 2020

### COVID-19 SCHOOL SCREENING UPDATE

On October 1, the Government of Ontario made updates to testing guidelines for children attending schools and child care centres. The screening tool will now have two sets of questions about symptoms that may yield different next steps depending on which symptoms are selected:

1. The first set of questions asks about symptoms such as fever or persistent cough. Students and children with any of these symptoms will still be advised to stay home until they are able to consult with a medical provider and receive an alternative diagnosis or a negative COVID-19 test.
2. The second set of questions asks about other symptoms that are commonly associated with other illnesses, such as a runny nose or headache:
  - Students and children with only one of these symptoms will be advised to stay home for 24 hours, after which they can return to school if their symptoms are improving.
  - Students and children with two or more of these symptoms will be advised to stay home until they are able to consult with a medical provider and receive an alternative diagnosis or a negative COVID-19 test.

In addition, the symptom list no longer includes abdominal pain or conjunctivitis (pink eye).

Screening must occur daily at home before a child enters school or child care.

The tool is not to be used as a clinical assessment tool or is it intended to take the place of medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. If you have medical questions, consult a health care provider or your [local public health unit](#). Listen to the advice of your local public health unit first, as their advice overrules the advice in this screening.

The guidelines will continue to evolve as we learn more about COVID-19, how it spreads, and how it affects children and adults in different ways.

- [Link to School Screening Tool](#)
- [Printer Friendly Version of Screening Guidelines](#)