Staff with COVID-19 Symptoms at School Decision Guide
Valid as of September 23, 2021

* Household contacts* that are fully vaccinated, and do not have any COVID-19 symptoms, do not need to isolate while waiting for the symptomatic person’s test results.

**Fully vaccinated** means that it has been at least 14 days since you received:
- the full series of a COVID-19 vaccine authorized by Health Canada (e.g., 2 doses of Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech or AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD, OR 1 dose of Janssen [Johnson & Johnson]) or any combination of such vaccines, OR
- one or two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine not authorized by Health Canada (e.g., Sinopharm) followed by one dose of a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine authorized by Health Canada (e.g., Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) OR
- three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine not authorized by Health Canada (e.g., Abdala).

STAFF becomes ill at school

Staff and household contacts* who are not fully vaccinated leave to isolate at home

Did the staff with symptoms get tested

**YES**

Staff with symptoms and household contacts* who are not fully vaccinated stay isolated at home

Result received

Positive

Staff with positive test result and household contacts* who are not fully vaccinated remain in isolation and follow OPH guidance

Negative

Staff with symptoms needs to isolate until symptoms have been improving for 24 hours. Household contacts may return if without symptoms

**NO**

Staff with symptoms must self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days & symptoms have been improving for 24 hours before returning. Household contacts* must self-isolate for a minimum of 10 days, unless fully vaccinated. The 10-day isolation period of household contacts* who are not fully vaccinated begins after they are able to break contact with the symptomatic person.

**OR**

Staff has alternative diagnosis provided by HCP

Staff with symptoms must self-isolate until 24 hours after symptoms have been improving. Household contacts* can end isolation.
# COVID-19 Symptoms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Symptoms</th>
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<td><strong>Most common symptoms of COVID-19</strong> <em>For adults (18 years and older) who are not considered high-risk contacts, you must get a COVID-19 test for the following symptoms even if you are fully vaccinated</em>&lt;br&gt;If you have one or more of these symptoms and you choose not to get tested, you must self-isolate for 10 days.</td>
<td><strong>Fever and/or chills</strong> (Temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius/100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.)&lt;br&gt;<strong>Cough or barking cough (croup)</strong> (Continuous, more than usual, making a whistling noise when breathing (not related to asthma, post-infectious reactive airways, COPD).)&lt;br&gt;<strong>Shortness of breath</strong> (Out of breath, unable to breathe deeply (not related to asthma).)&lt;br&gt;<strong>Decrease or loss of taste or smell</strong> (Not related to seasonal allergies, neurological disorders.)&lt;br&gt;<strong>Muscle aches and pains</strong> (That is unexplained or unusual (not related to a sudden injury, fibromyalgia, or receiving a COVID-19 vaccine the past 48 hours).)&lt;br&gt;<strong>Extreme tiredness, lack of energy or feeling unwell</strong> (That is unusual or unexpected (not related to depression, insomnia, thyroid dysfunction, or receiving a COVID-19 vaccine in the past 48 hours).)</td>
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<td><strong>Other symptoms of COVID-19</strong> The following symptoms require COVID-19 testing if you have been identified as a high-risk contact, even if you are fully vaccinated.&lt;br&gt;If you have one or more of these symptoms you must self-isolate (i.e., you must stay home except for medical emergencies or to seek COVID-19 testing) for at least 24 hours until symptoms are improving:&lt;br&gt;If you have not been identified as a high-risk contact, you are still eligible to get tested, but it is not required to return to work or school.</td>
<td><strong>Sore throat</strong> (Painful swallowing or difficulty swallowing (not related to seasonal allergies, acid reflux, post-nasal drip).)&lt;br&gt;<strong>Runny or stuffy/congested nose</strong> (Not related to seasonal allergies, being outside in cold weather, chronic sinusitis unchanged from baseline.)&lt;br&gt;<strong>Conjunctivitis</strong> (pink eye) (Not related to blepharitis, recurrent styes.)&lt;br&gt;<strong>Decreased or lack of appetite</strong> (Not related to anxiety, constipation.)&lt;br&gt;<strong>Abdominal pain</strong> (Persistent or ongoing (not related to menstrual cramps, gastroesophageal reflux disease)&lt;br&gt;<strong>Headache</strong> (New and persistent, unusual, unexplained, or long-lasting (not related to tension-type headaches, chronic migraines, receiving a COVID-19 vaccine in the last 48 hours).)</td>
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***Please note, if you have been identified as a High-risk contact, you must get tested for ANY of the symptoms listed above. Even if you test negative, if you are not fully vaccinated you must remain in self-isolation from 10 days from your last exposure to someone with COVID-19, or as directed by OPH. Please see the Self-Isolation Instructions for Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and COVID-19 High Risk Contacts pages for more information.