



Students/staff who test positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, must remain in isolation until:

1. They have isolated for **10 days** after the start of symptoms; **OR 10 days** after positive test date, if asymptomatic **AND**
2. Symptoms have been improving for **24 hours** without the use of fever-reducing medications.

NOTE: Students or staff do not need to show proof of a negative test or medical note to return to school.

Ottawa Public Health (OPH) will provide guidance and conduct follow up with the staff, student and/or household members of the person who tested positive for COVID-19.



Protocol When Staff or Students Test Positive for COVID-19



OPH is informed of a POSITIVE TEST result of an individual at school. OPH confirms positive test result and when individual was last at school to determine if they attended school during the time when they were able to spread the virus to others (period of communicability).



OPH School Nurse contacts the school administration to make sure the school is notified and requests information on the high risk contacts of person who tested positive for COVID-19. Information needed can include: class lists and seating charts, staff lists, transportation lists & seating charts and before and after school child care lists.



Ottawa Public Health will:

1. Perform risk assessment of school contacts of person who tested positive for COVID-19.
2. Provide school with list of anyone who is considered a high-risk contact.
3. Provide a letter for all parents/guardians and staff, that the school will send, to inform them that someone at the school has tested positive for COVID-19.
4. Provide a letter for all high-risk contacts, to be sent by the school, to notify them of their exposure to COVID-19 and next steps for testing and self-isolation.
5. Provide school with recommendations for infection prevention and control measures.
6. Determine if an outbreak will be declared.



HIGH-RISK contacts who are NOT fully vaccinated must self-isolate at home for 10 days after they were in contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19. OPH will communicate with the high-risk contacts via automated calls/emails that include recommendations on COVID-19 testing and isolation.

SYMPTOMATIC students/staff should isolate and seek testing right away.

Please **see next page** for protocols based on the vaccination status of the high-risk contact.

Self-isolation may still be required at the discretion of OPH even if a high risk contact is fully vaccinated.

For more information please visit [OttawaPublicHealth.ca](https://ottawapublichealth.ca) or call **613-580-6744**.

Adapted with permission by KFL&A Public Health

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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).



Please see differences in protocol based on COVID-19 vaccination status and symptoms:



Staff or students who are **HIGH RISK** contacts and are **fully vaccinated***:

Fully vaccinated symptomatic HIGH- RISK contacts - must self-isolate and get tested right away. If your test is negative, you can discontinue self-isolation once symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (48 hours for gastrointestinal symptoms). Household members who are **fully vaccinated** do not need to self-isolate unless they have symptoms. Household members who are **NOT fully vaccinated** or previously positive for COVID-19 should self isolate until the high-risk contact receives a negative test result.

Fully vaccinated asymptomatic (no symptoms) HIGH RISK contacts are not required to self-isolate. Get tested at least 7 days after you were last in contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19. Maintain physical distance and masking outside your home. Self-monitor for symptoms. Self-isolate immediately if you develop symptoms. Household members do not need to self-isolate.

Staff and students who are **not fully vaccinated***:

Students/staff who are NOT fully vaccinated at the time of a high-risk exposure must self-isolate for **10 days** after they were in contact with the person who tested positive for COVID-19, even if the high-risk contact has a negative COVID-19 test result. OPH will communicate with the high-risk contacts via automated calls/emails that include recommendations on COVID-19 testing and isolation.

SYMPTOMATIC students/staff should be tested as soon as possible.

ASYMPTOMATIC (no symptoms) students/staff are advised to go for testing no earlier than 7 days after last close contact with the person who tested positive.

Household members of:

Staff and student with symptoms of COVID-19: your household members who are **fully vaccinated*** do not need to self-isolate. If they are **NOT fully vaccinated***, they should self-isolate while waiting for the test results. If the test result is negative, they no longer have to self-isolate but should only leave the home for essential reasons (i.e., work, school) for the remainder of the isolation period.

ASYMPTOMATIC (no symptoms) staff and students: household members who are **fully vaccinated*** do not need to self-isolate. If they are **NOT fully vaccinated*** they should only leave the home for essential reasons (i.e. work, school) during the high risk contact's isolation period.

NOTE: Self-isolation still may be required at the discretion of the local public health unit even if a high risk contact is fully vaccinated*

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