Ministry of Health

COVID-19 Screening Tool for Children in School and Child Care

Version 1 – October 1, 2020

Results of Screening Questions:

If you answered "YES" to any of the symptoms included under question 1:
• Your child should stay home to isolate immediately.
• Contact your child's health care provider for further advice or assessment, including if your child needs a COVID-19 test or other treatment.

If you answered "YES" to only one of the symptoms included under question 2:
• Your child should stay home for 24 hours from when the symptom started.
• If the symptom is improving, your child may return to school/child care when they feel well enough to do so. A negative COVID-19 test is not required to return.
• If the symptom persists or worsens, contact your child's health care provider for further advice or assessment, including if your child needs a COVID-19 test or other treatment.

If you answered "YES" to two or more of the symptoms included under question 2:
• Your child should stay home to isolate immediately.
• Contact your child's health care provider for further advice or assessment, including if your child needs a COVID-19 test or other treatment.

If the individual answers "YES" to questions 4, 5 or 6.
• Your child should stay home to isolate immediately and follow the advice of public health.
• If your child develops symptoms, you should contact your local public health unit or the health care provider for further advice.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. My child has woken up not feeling well, what do I do?

If you notice that your child has new or worsening symptoms, what you do depends on the symptom and how usual they are for your child. If your child has new or worsening:

• Fever/chills

• Cough

• Shortness of breath

• Decreased or loss of smell or taste

Your child should isolate immediately and you should contact your child's health provider for further advice or assessment. The health care provider can help you determine whether the symptoms are related to another non-COVID-19 condition, or if they should get tested for COVID-19.

If your child has ONE new or worsening symptom (that is not related to a known cause or condition) that include:

• Sore throat

• Stuffy nose/runny nose

• Headache

• Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea

• Fatigue/lethargy/muscle aches/malaise

Your child should stay home for 24 hours to be monitored to see whether the symptoms get better or worse. If they start to feel better and symptoms are improving, they can return to school/child care when well enough to do so and no COVID-19 testing is needed. If the symptoms get worse, you should contact their health care provider for further advice or assessment. The health care provider can help you determine whether the symptoms are related to another non-COVID-19 condition, or if they should get tested for COVID-19.

If your child has TWO or MORE new or worsening symptoms (that are not related to a known cause or condition) that include:

• Sore throat

• Stuffy nose/runny nose

• Headache

• Nausea and/or vomiting

• Diarrhea

• Fatigue/lethargy/muscle aches or malaise

Your child should isolate immediately and you should contact your child's health provider for further advice or assessment. The health care provider can help you determine whether the symptoms are related to another non-COVID-19 condition, or if they should get tested for COVID-19.

2. My child has a runny nose, what should I do?
If your child's only symptom is a runny nose, you should keep your child home and monitor their symptoms as you would in any other year. When they feel better, they are ready to go back to school/child care and no COVID-19 testing is needed. If they get worse or develop other symptoms, you should contact their health care provider for more advice. Mild symptoms known to persist in young children (e.g., runny nose) may be ongoing at time of return to school/child care if other symptoms have been resolved.

3. Who in my family needs to be tested along with my child?
If your child has been identified as needing a test and everyone else in the family is well, no testing of other family members is needed. If your child tests positive for COVID-19, the local public health unit will contact you/your child and make a plan for additional testing of all close contacts.

4. Do I need a note from a doctor before my child goes back to school/child care or a copy of a negative test result?
No, you do not need a note from your doctor or proof of a negative test before your child returns to school/ childcare.

5. I need more information to feel confident in my assessment, what do I do?
If you need additional information about COVID-19 or have a question specific to your child and their health, please contact your health care provider.