

Return to School or Child Care Protocols for Children/Students when Testing is Recommended Because of Symptoms

Updated
February 23, 2021

While a child/student is waiting for COVID-19 test results, they must remain in self-isolation and cannot attend school in-person or child care. It is required that household members isolate until the symptomatic child/student receives a negative result.



Negative COVID-19 Test Result



Not Tested for COVID-19



Positive COVID-19 Test Result

If child/student has tested negative for COVID-19 they can return to school or child care if **all of these conditions are met**:

- they do not have a fever (without using medication)
- it has been at least 24 hours since their symptoms started improving (48 hours since last episode of vomiting or diarrhea if they experienced these symptoms)
- they feel well enough to attend, **AND**
- they pass the daily screening.

Medical notes are not required to return to school, as long as all required conditions have been met.

Please note: if a child/student is a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, they must self-isolate for 14 days from their last exposure to the positive case. If they have travelled internationally, they must self-isolate for 14 days from return to Canada. They should continue to monitor for symptoms, even if they have a negative test result.

If testing is recommended and a child/student is not tested, they must self-isolate for 10 days from symptom onset, **AND** until all of these conditions are met:

- they do not have a fever (without using medication)
- it has been at least 24 hours since their symptoms started improving (48 hours since last episode of vomiting or diarrhea if they experienced these symptoms)
- they feel well enough to attend, **AND**
- they pass the daily screening.

Household members of the symptomatic child/student must also isolate for 14 days from the day the child/student started self-isolating.

It is important to note that the diagnosis of another infection does not exclude the possibility of also being infected with COVID-19. Being tested will reduce the risk of unknowingly spreading COVID-19.

Please note: if a child/student is a contact of a COVID-19 variant of concern case, their isolation may be extended if they don't get tested on day 10-12.

If a child/student has tested positive for COVID-19 they will receive follow up from KFL&A Public Health.

Child/student with a positive test result and all close contacts must remain in isolation until clearance conditions have been met as advised by KFL&A Public Health based on the most current guidance.

Medical notes are not required to return to school, as long as all conditions have been met.

Please note: a child/student who tests positive for COVID-19, does not require another test for 90 days, even if they are symptomatic again. In this case, they should be excluded until 24 hours after symptom resolution (48 hours if symptoms included vomiting or diarrhea).