

Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Schools

To reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19, people should stay home if they feel unwell. Families must understand the need to closely monitor and screen their children before school using the **COVID-19 Daily Checklist**. They should talk to the school if their child has chronic symptoms.

If a student becomes unwell or develops new health symptoms while at school, the following measures must take place:

- A staff member will escort the child/student to an isolation room/area in the school.
- The student will be monitored until a parent/guardian arrives.
- The student will wash their hands.
- The student will be provided a medical mask, if available. Non-medical mask may also be used. (unless they are unable to wear one).
- The parent/guardian will be called to pick up their child. They should be advised to visit the online COVID-19 self-assessment: **covid-self-assessment.novascotia.ca/en** or if unable to access the online tool, call 811.
- Household members, including siblings, do not need to stay home if they do not have any symptoms.
- Even with only one mild symptom, testing is strongly encouraged. The online covid self-assessment at **covid-self-assessment.novascotia.ca/en** will tell families if their child is required to self-isolate while awaiting test results.
- If self-isolation is **not required**, the student may return when they are feeling better with no fever medications for 24 hours. Mild lingering symptoms such as cough or runny nose does not prevent individuals from returning.
- If self-isolation is **required**, the student will need to stay home until the test results come back.
- If the test is **positive**, Public Health will follow up and provide support and advise when the student can return to school.
- If the test is **negative**, the student may return when they are feeling better with no fever medications for 24 hours. Mild lingering symptoms such as cough or runny nose does not prevent individuals from returning.
- Students who Public Health considers a **close contact** of someone with COVID-19 will need to stay home for 14 days. Household members of that child do not need to stay home unless they are also a close contact of someone with COVID-19.

School staff assigned to monitor a child/student who feels unwell should:

- Wash their hands.
- Wear a medical mask, if available. Non-medical mask may also be used.
- Escort the child/student to an isolation room/area in the school.
- Physically distance from the student by 2 metres/6 feet.
- Wear a face shield when physical distancing is not an option.
- Remain with the child/student at all times until their parent/guardian arrives.