Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Schools

To reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19, people should stay home if they feel unwell. Families need to closely monitor and screen their children each day using the **COVID-19 Daily Checklist.** Keep children home when they are unwell or have new or worsening symptoms and visit the **COVID-19 Self-assessment**. Talk to the school if your child has chronic symptoms for example seasonal allergies or migraines.

If your child becomes unwell or develops new or worsening health symptoms while at school, the following measures will take place:

Monitor your child until you arrive

Have them wash their hands

Give them a mask to wear (if tolerated)

Escort them to an isolation room/area in the school

Call you to come pick them up

Advise you to visit the COVID-19 Self-assessment: *covid-self-assessment.novascotia.ca* or if unable to access the online tool, call 811

Even if your child only has one mild symptom, testing is strongly encouraged. The online COVID-19 self-assessment at covid-self-assessment.novascotia.ca/en will tell you if your child is required to self-isolate while awaiting test results.

- If self-isolation is **not required**, your child may return when they are feeling better with no fever medication for 24 hours. Mild lingering symptoms such as cough or runny nose does not prevent individuals from returning. Repeat the assessment for any new or worsening symptoms

- If self-isolation is **required**, your child 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 will advise when your child can return to school.

- If the test is **negative**, your child may return when they are feeling better with no fever medication for 24 hours. Mild lingering symptoms such as cough or runny nose does not prevent individuals from returning. Repeat the assessment for any new or worsening symptoms

- If public health tells you that your child is considered a **close contact** of someone with COVID-19, they 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.

We know that keeping children home is difficult for families. Taking a cautious approach is important to control the spread of COVID-19 and other viruses. This plan may change based on new information.

For any new or worsening symptoms complete the COVID-19 Self-assessment: *covid-self-assessment.novascotia.ca*

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