# COVID-19 UPDATE FOR FAMILIES ATTENDING CHILD CARE SETTINGS IN YORK REGION

January 13, 2022

Dear Child Care Families:

On Thursday, December 30, 2021, the provincial government announced updates to COVID-19 case, contact and outbreak management. The updates include no longer considering child care settings a highest risk setting and directing public health efforts to be focused on protecting our most vulnerable residents in congregate care settings, such as long-term care homes and retirement homes. As a result, York Region Public Health will no longer be conducting contact tracing in schools and cohort dismissals will not occur at this time.

## COVID-19 SCREENING REMINDERS

As York Region Public Health is no longer actively managing cases and dismissing cohorts, **daily screening for students and staff is more important than ever**.

**Screening must be completed every day using the most recent COVID-19 school and child care screening tool**. Parents/guardians must not send children to school or child care if they are showing **any** symptoms of COVID-19. The provincial guidance requires onsite confirmation of daily screening. Please follow the process your child care setting has developed to confirm screening is completed each day.

## WHAT TO DO IF MY CHILD DEVELOPS SYMPTOMS?

Based on symptoms, if the screening tool advises your child must isolate, **assume your child has a COVID-19 infection**.

All household members of a symptomatic person, **regardless of vaccination status**, should stay at home for the same length of time the symptomatic person is isolating – please refer to the screening tool instructions or refer ontario.ca/exposed for more information.

**If your child has symptoms, but the screening tool does not advise self-isolation, they should remain at home until their symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours (or 48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms).** Your household members do not need to self-isolate.

If the student/child was symptomatic and required self-isolation based on screening tool instructions but has since tested negative for COVID-19 on a single PCR test or **two** rapid antigen tests (RAT) taken at least 24 hours apart, and symptoms have been improving for 24 hours they may discontinue self-isolation and return to school and child care.

## PUBLIC HEALTH

1-877-464-9675
TTY 1-866-512-6228
york.ca/COVID19

## WHAT IF MY CHILD TESTS POSITIVE ON A TAKE-HOME PCR TEST KIT OR RAPID ANTIGEN TEST KIT?

If you have access to an at-home PCR test or rapid antigen test kit and your child gets a positive result, they must self-isolate immediately.

**Children under the age of 12 years old must self-isolate for at least 5 days from symptom onset**; if needed, continue self-isolation until symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms), whichever is longer.

**All household members, <u>regardless of vaccination status</u>, must self-isolate while the person who tested positive is self-isolating.** Please refer to ontario.ca/exposed or york.ca/COVID19Positive for more information.

Only people who test positive on PCR may be contacted by their local public health unit or the provincial case and contact management team.

## POSITIVE TEST - NOTIFYING CLOSE CONTACTS

Please think about who your child had close contact with outside of your household during the 48 hours before their symptoms started or from the date of their test (whichever came sooner). Let close contacts know about their exposure and encourage them to visit ontario.ca/exposed or york.ca/COVID19Positive

**There is no requirement for parent(s)/guardian(s) to report their child's PCR/RAT results to the school or child care as part of absence reporting**

## COVID-19 VACCINES

COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective and the best way to protect you and those around you from serious illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19.

York Region Public Health encourages all individuals five years of age (on the date of immunization) and older to get a COVID-19 vaccine. Visit york.ca/COVID19Vaccine to learn more and find a vaccine clinic.

## PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

Child care settings continue to work diligently with York Region Public Health to review and strengthen infection control measures within these settings. These measures include masking, distancing, hand hygiene, cohorting, screening, and cleaning and disinfecting at the setting. York Region Public Health continues to conduct routine on-site inspections to ensure that child care settings are in compliance with the Health Protection and Promotion Act and other regulations and guidelines.

As of January 2022, all school-aged children in York Region (JK to grade 12) are required to wear a mask indoors while attending school and child care, including classroom, hallways, and while using school transportation. Reasonable exemptions would continue to apply, such as students who have trouble breathing or are unable to wear a mask for medical reasons, and temporarily removing the mask when eating (unless a mask exemption has been provided). The Public Health Agency of Canada recommends Canadians wear well-fitted three-layer masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

It is important to follow York Region Public Health's advice. Please visit york.ca/COVID19 for additional information on how to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

## RESOURCES

- [COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening Tool](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccinations in York Region](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Quick Facts English | French](#)
- [york.ca/COVID19](#)
- [york.ca/COVID19Positive](#)
- [york.ca/SafeAtSchool](#)

# This is an important message. Take it to someone who can read English.

| | |
|---|---|
| Arabic | هذه رسالة هامة. يرجى أن تأخذها إلى شخص يستطيع قراءة اللغة الإنجليزية. |
| Armenian | Այս մի կարեւոր պատգամ է. Տարէք մէկի մօտ որ կարող է անգլերէն կարդալ |
| Chinese | 這是一項重要訊息。請拿去向懂英語的人士加以詢問。 |
| Farsi | این یک پیام بسیار مهم است. این پیام را نزد کسی ببرید که بتواند زبان انگلیسی را بخواند. |
| French | Ce message est important. Veuillez le remettre à une personne qui lit l'anglais. |
| German | Dies ist eine wichtige Nachricht. Geben Sie sie jemandem, der Englisch lesen kann. |
| Greek | Το εξής μήνυμα είναι σημαντικό. Δώστε το σε κάποιον που μπορεί να διαβάσει αγγλικά. |
| Gujarati | આ એક મહત્વનો સંદેશો છે. આને કોઇ અંગ્રેજી વાંચી શકનાર વ્યક્તિ પાસે લઇ જાવ. |
| Hebrew | זו הודעה חשובה. קחו אותה למישהו שקורא אנגלית. |
| Hindi | यह एक महत्वपूर्ण संदेश है। इसे किसी ऐसे व्यक्ति के पास लेकर जाएं जो अंग्रेज़ी पढ़ता हो। |
| Italian | Questo è un messaggio importante. Portatelo a qualcuno che sappia leggere l'inglese. |
| Korean | 다음은 중요한 사항입니다. 영어를 잘하는 분께 설명을 부탁드리세요. |
| Marathi | हा एक महत्त्वाचा संदेश आहे. इंग्लीश वाचता येणाऱ्या कुणाकडे तरी हा घेऊन जा. |
| Polish | To ważna informacja. Poproś o pomoc kogoś, kto zna język angielski. |
| Portuguese | Esta mensagem é importante. Leve-a a alguém que saiba ler inglês. |
| Punjabi | ਇਹ ਬਹੁਤ ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਸੁਨੇਹਾ ਹੈ। ਇਸ ਨੂੰ ਅਜਿਹੇ ਵਿਅਕਤੀ ਕੋਲ ਲੈਜਾਓ ਜਿਹੜਾ ਅੰਗਰੇਜੀ ਪੜ੍ਹ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੋਵੇ। |
| Romanian | Acesta este un mesaj important. Arătați-l unei persoane care ştie limba engleză. |
| Russian | Это важное сообщение. Покажите его человеку, знающему английский язык. |
| Somali | Fariintaan waa muhiim. Ula tag qof af ingiriiska akhrinkara |
| Spanish | Este es un mensaje importante. Lléveselo a alguien que pueda leer Inglés. |
| Tagalog | Ito ay isang napakahalagang mensahe. Dalhin ito sa sinumang marunong magbasa ng Ingles. |
| Tamil | இது ஒரு முக்கியமான செய்தியாகும், இதனை ஆங்கிலம் வாசிக்கத் தெரிந்த ஒருவரிடம் எடுத்துச் செல்லவும். |
| Urdu | یہ ایک اہم پیغام ہے۔ اسے کسی ایسے شخص کے پاس لے جائیں جو انگریزی پڑھ سکتاہو۔ |
| Vietnamese | Đây là một thông báo quan trọng. Hãy đưa cho người nào biết đọc tiếng Anh. |