



# **SCHOOLS, CHILD CARE CENTRES and COVID-19**

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Q: What happens when someone in the school/child care centre tests positive for COVID-19?**

NWHU will contact the positive case and gather details about their contacts. NWHU may contact the school/child care centre to get phone numbers for anyone who is considered a high-risk contact of the case. The positive case will not return to school/child care until they are no longer able to spread the virus.

High-risk contacts of the case will be notified, and given further instruction. Closures will only be implemented if in collaboration with the school/child care centre, it is necessary to control the disease. Reasons for closure may include: too many staff absences to safely maintain control measures or evidence that inability or failure to maintain control measures caused spread of the virus in the school/child care.

In addition to these measures, as with other infectious diseases in school/child care settings, NWHU will advise on enhanced cleaning and may inspect the building to provide further recommendations on prevention measures.

### **Q: How will I know if my child/youth has been in contact with a positive COVID-19 case?**

NWHU will contact anyone who is considered a high-risk contact of a positive case. All high-risk contacts of a positive case should be tested, regardless of vaccination status.

### **Q: What if my child/youth and their household members are fully vaccinated?**

Fully vaccinated people who are high-risk contacts of a positive case and do not have symptoms will need to get tested but may not have to isolate. Household members of a person who is a high-risk contact of a positive case do not need to self-isolate regardless of vaccination status. Exception: anyone with new COVID-like symptoms not explained by an existing health condition should self-isolate until tested for COVID-19.

### **Q: What if my child/youth and household members are not vaccinated?**

Unvaccinated people who are high-risk contacts of a positive case will be directed to get a test and isolate for 10 days. If not tested for COVID-19, isolation may extend for up to 20 days after last contact with the positive case. The reason is that it can take up to 10 days to develop COVID-19 disease, which can then spread to others for up to another 10 days, and without testing to rule out disease, there is risk of transmitting COVID-19 to others



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**Q: What happens if a household member of a child/youth has been identified as a contact of a positive case?**

A public health nurse will advise all high-risk contacts of COVID-19 on the actions they need to take. Anyone with new COVID-19 like symptoms not explained by an existing health condition should always self isolate until tested for COVID-19, or for as long as advised by public health. Generally, contacts of high-risk contacts do not need to isolate, unless symptoms are present.

**Q: How can my child/youth prevent getting COVID-19?**

Your school/child care centre has put in measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As with all infectious diseases, students should: wash hands regularly, stay 2 metres from others (when possible), stay home when feeling unwell, practise cough/sneeze etiquette, and follow any other instructions required by the school/child care centre such as use of masks indoors. Role modelling physical distancing and masking in your home and personal life will help reinforce these practices for your child and show that you support them in following preventive measures.

**Q: When must I not send my student to school/child care?**

Your child/student may not attend if:

- NWHU has told your student to self-isolate;
- the results of the [daily screening tool](#) say “Do not go to school”

**For more information, visit [www.nwhu.on.ca](http://www.nwhu.on.ca)**



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