



**Northwestern
Health Unit**

www.nwhu.on.ca

October 16, 2020

Medical Advisory: Influenza update, COVID-19

Please note the following information and guidance:

COVID-19

Screening tool for schools:

The screening tool for students and children in daycare has significantly changed to be less sensitive. Depending on the type and number of symptoms, some children can be monitored for only 24 hours and then return to school/daycare if improving. See screening tool below:

- [Electronic School and Daycare Screening Tool](#)
- [Printable School and Daycare Screening Tool](#)

Testing:

Click the link below for additional information on the use of alternate specimen collection methods for COVID-19 PCR testing:

- <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/evidence-brief/2020/08/eb-covid-19-pcr-testing-alternative-collection-testing.pdf?la=en>

Clearance from self-isolation for cases of COVID-19:

Guidelines have changed the self-isolation period for cases of COVID 19:

- Reduced to 10 days for cases with mild to moderate illness AND not severely immunocompromised;
- Increased to 20 days for severe illness requiring ICU level of care OR severely immunocompromised.
- See Guidelines here.

Influenza vaccination:

Guidelines for immunization services can be found here:

- http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/Immunization_Services_during_COVID-19_08-26-2020.pdf
- [NACI recommendations on the duration of the post-vaccination observation period for influenza vaccination during the COVID-19 pandemic.](#)

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Dr. Kit Young Hoon

Medical Officer of Health
Northwestern Health Unit
(807) 468-3147