

## JANUARY 2022

All students and staff must self-screen for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 EVERY DAY before attending school using the [COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening Tool](#). Note that this screening tool was recently updated. If a printed copy is used, it is important to ensure that it is the current version.

### **What if a student has COVID-19 symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19?**

Parents should use the [COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening Tool](#) to assess the child's symptoms and follow all instructions.

If a person does not pass the screening tool, they (and their household members) must follow the self-isolation instructions provided. These instructions are also available at [COVID-19.ontario.ca/exposed](#) and in flowcharts posted at [TBDHU.com/covidexposure](#)

It is the parent/caregiver's responsibility to:

- notify the child's close contacts and complete the required isolation time. Information for close contacts is available at [COVID-19.ontario.ca/exposed](#) and in flowcharts posted at [TBDHU.com/covidexposure](#)
- Inform the child's school of the absence, (but they are not required to report results of positive tests to the school or to TBDHU).

### **What if a student has a known health condition that has symptoms similar to COVID-19?**

Assessing for symptoms of COVID-19 should focus on evaluating what is new, worsening, or different from the child's baseline health status or usual state.

If the symptoms are from a known health condition diagnosed by a healthcare provider (not related to COVID-19), the student/staff does not have to self-isolate.

If the symptoms are new, different, or worsening, the student/staff should stay home and self-isolate.

**What happens if there is a case of COVID-19 in the school?**

Principals are responsible to report to TBDHU if there is a sharp increase in absences (approximately 30%) due to illness.

Generally, schools will remain open to staff and students who pass the daily screen. If there are staffing shortages due to illness, schools may need to close classrooms or schools until staffing can be arranged.

**What about COVID-19 testing?**

RATs (rapid antigen tests) may be used when a student or staff has COVID-19 symptoms.

Take-home PCR self-