Parents have questions about COVID-19 and how they can protect their families and their community. Knowing when your child should go to school, stay home or get tested isn’t always clear. The information in this resource can help parents make decisions.

To start, students should complete the [Ontario School Screening tool](#) before each school day and follow its instructions.

Below are some examples of possible situations to help guide parents’ decision making.

**What if…**

**Your child has symptoms of COVID-19, IS NOT a close contact of a case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days and HAS NOT travelled in the past 14 days:**

- Your child should stay home, self-isolate and get tested.
- All household members of the child should **self-isolate** while waiting for the test results of the symptomatic child (if a household member is a health care worker, they should contact their Occupational Health regarding return to work and/or work self-isolation).
- **Negative Test Result:** If your child’s test result is negative, they can return to school when it has been at least 24 hours since their symptoms started improving and do not have a fever (without using medication). Household contacts can then **self-monitor**
- **Positive Test Result:** See [Your child tests positive for COVID-19](#)
- **If your child does not get tested**, your child will have to self-isolate at home for 10 days from when their symptoms started, unless a doctor diagnosed your child with another illness
  - All household contacts must self-isolate for 14 days from their last contact with this symptomatic child

**Your child has symptoms of COVID-19, IS a close contact of a case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days or HAS travelled in the past 14 days:**

- Your child must **self-isolate** at home and should be tested. All other household members need to **self-isolate** while waiting for your child’s test results
  - If your child tests negative, your child will need to continue to **self-isolate** for 14 days from their last contact with a case or return from travel.
  - Household members can leave home for essential reasons (attending work/school/childcare & essential errands: groceries, medical appointments/prescriptions), as long as they did not have close contact
with a case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days and have not travelled in the past 14 days:

- **If your child does not get tested,** they must self-isolate for 10 days from when they first developed symptoms, or 14 days from their last contact with a case or return from travel, whichever is longest.
  - Your child’s siblings and family will all need to self-isolate for 14 days from their last exposure to the symptomatic child. If any of them develop symptoms, they should contact Public Health who will provide further guidance around self-isolation and return to work or school.

Your child tests positive for COVID-19:

- Your child will need to self-isolate for 10 days from when their symptoms began. They can return to school when cleared by Public Health.
- Your child’s siblings and family will all need to self-isolate for 14 days. If any of them develop symptoms, they should contact Public Health who will provide further guidance around self-isolation and return to work or school.

Your child was in close contact (high-risk contact) with someone who has COVID-19 or was directed by Public Health to self-isolate (e.g., in the same cohort as a case at school):

- Your child must self-isolate at home for 14 days, monitor for symptoms and should be tested. Public Health will provide further direction.
- Household members are to stay at home except for essential reasons (attending work/school/childcare & essential errands: groceries, medical appointments/prescriptions). Your child’s siblings and other family members can still go to work or school. They should self-monitor.
- But, if **your child develops symptoms,** your child should be tested and your child’s siblings and household will need to self-isolate. Public Health will provide further direction.
  - If your child tests negative, your child will need to continue to self-isolate for 14 days from their last contact with a case or as directed by Public Health. Household members can return to work or school, and leave home for essential reasons (attending work/school/childcare and essential errands: groceries, medical appointments/prescriptions) as long as they did not have close contact with a case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days and have not travelled in the past 14 days
  - If your child tests positive, see Your child tests positive for COVID-19
  - If your child does not go for testing, your child must self-isolate for 10 days from symptom onset or 14 days from their last exposure, whichever is longest. All household members must also self-isolate for 14 days from their last exposure to the child.
A household member of your child (but not your child) was in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19:

- The household member must **self-isolate** at home for 14 days, and arrange to get tested.
- Household members are to stay at home except for essential reasons (attending work/school/childcare and essential errands: groceries, medical appointments/prescriptions). Your child can still go to school. They should **self-monitor**.
- If the household member develops symptoms of COVID-19 while they are **self-isolating**, then your child, your child’s siblings and other family members will also have to **self-isolate** until the household member’s COVID-19 test results are confirmed.

A household member of your child (but not your child) has travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days:

- The household member must **self-isolate** at home for 14 days.
- Your child can go to school as long as they also did not travel and do not have symptoms. They should **self-monitor**.
- If the household member develops symptoms of COVID-19 while they are **self-isolating**, they should get tested. Your child, your child’s siblings and other family members will also have to **self-isolate** until the household member’s COVID-19 test results are confirmed.