

Changes to COVID-19 Symptom Protocol - September 18, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are writing to share some information regarding recent changes to our COVID-19 symptom protocol.

[New COVID-19 School Screening Tool](#)

On Thursday, September 17, 2020, the Ontario government released to school boards an online screening tool available for families, school staff and essential visitors to meet their obligation to screen themselves or their children for symptoms of illness each day before going to school. School boards and local health units have been asked to align the criteria in their screening tools with this new screening tool for schools.

The [COVID-19 School Screening](#) tool has been posted on our [Return to School \(RTS\) website](#) under Daily Screening, and is accessible here: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>.

Parents or guardians (and students 18 years of age or older) must complete this new [COVID-19 School Screening](#) tool before leaving for school each day. Please use this screening tool moving forward, as the one that was provided at the start of the school year is no longer applicable.

Based on the new criteria in the school screening tool, the following changes to our previous screening protocol will now apply:

- Household members and close contacts of a symptomatic individual are no longer required to self-isolate unless they have symptoms. This means that unless otherwise directed by Public Health or a health care provider, **siblings are not required to stay home or miss school while awaiting test results for the symptomatic student.**
- However, **if a household member (including siblings) has COVID-19 symptoms**, they are **required to self-isolate** while awaiting test results.
- In cases **where an individual tests positive for COVID-19**, all close contacts and household members (including siblings) **will be required to self-isolate** and will **require clearance from Halton Public Health** before returning to school.

The attached chart ([Return to School Protocol for Students with COVID-19 Symptoms.pdf](#)) outlines the revised Return to School Protocol for Students with COVID-19 symptoms.

[COVID-19 Advisory Board](#)

We have posted a [COVID-19 Advisory Board](#) on our Return to School site that provides the number of active confirmed positive COVID-19 cases in connection to HCDSB schools. Please note that this chart will track any active confirmed positive COVID-19 cases connected to one of our school communities, but it does not necessarily mean the individual was exposed in our school.

A link to this advisory board has been posted on the landing page of each of our school websites, and you may also access it directly through this link: <https://learnathome.hcdsb.org/covid-19-advisory-board/>.

Thank you for your ongoing patience and understanding as we navigate through this period of time. The health and well-being of our students, staff and families continues to be our highest priority as we work closely with our [Public Health Officials](#) to ensure a safe school year for all.

Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB)