

Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Schools

To reduce the risk of spread of COVID-19, students should not be in school if they feel unwell. Families must understand the need to closely monitor and self-screen their children before school using the **COVID-19 Daily Checklist**. They should talk to the school if their child has chronic symptoms.

If a student becomes unwell or develops new health symptoms while at school, the following measures must take place:

- A staff member will escort the child/student to an isolation room/area in the school
- The student will be monitored until a parent/guardian arrives
- The student will wash their hands
- The student will be provided a medical mask, if available. Non-medical mask may also be used. (unless they are unable to wear one)
- The parent/guardian will be called to pick up their child. They should be advised to complete the 811 online assessment: <https://when-to-call-about-covid19.novascotia.ca/en> or if unable to access the online tool, call 811.
- Household contacts, including siblings, do not need to stay home if they do not have any symptoms.
- If a test is **not required**, the student may return when they are feeling better with no fever medications for 24 hours (or only a mild clear runny nose).
- If a test is **required**, the student will need to isolate until the result comes back
- If the test is **positive**, Public Health will follow up and provide support and advise when the student can return to school
- If the test is **negative**, the student may return when they are feeling better with no fever medications for 24 hours (or only a mild clear runny nose)
- Students who Public Health considers a **close contact** of someone with COVID-19 will need to stay home for 14 days. Household contacts of that child do not need to stay home unless they are also a close contact of someone with COVID-19.

School staff assigned to monitor a child/student who feels unwell should:

- Wash their hands
- Wear a medical mask, if available. Non-medical mask may also be used
- Escort the child/student to an isolation room/area in the school
- Physically distance from the student by 2 metres/6 feet
- Wear a face shield when physical distancing is not an option
- Remain with the child/student at all times until their parent/guardian arrives