



January 16, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Re: COVID-19 Return to In-Person Learning Reminders and Updates

We are writing to provide some important reminders and updates as your child(ren) return to in-person learning. We appreciate that the transition back to the classroom may raise questions and mixed feelings. Public Health Sudbury & Districts is working closely with your school to support educators and students. In shifting back to in-person learning, please be reminded of the important layers of protection for your student(s) as described in this letter. Thank you for all you are doing!

1. Get vaccinated against COVID-19

- COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective and the best way to protect you and those around you from serious illness, hospitalization and death from COVID-19 and the highly transmissible Omicron variant of concern.
- Public Health Sudbury & Districts strongly encourages all individuals five years of age and older to get fully vaccinated against COVID-19 with at least two doses of vaccine, and a third dose, if eligible (18+ years).
- Visit [COVID-19 Vaccine: Children-aged-5-11](#) to learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine for kids. We are working closely with School Boards to support planning for upcoming COVID-19 vaccine clinics in schools. But please – do not delay! Visit [COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics in Sudbury & Districts](#) to find an upcoming clinic near you.

2. Complete daily screening

- All students must self-screen daily using the [COVID-19 school and childcare screening tool](#) to assess for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 or other illness before attending school. It is important to follow the instructions from the screening tool.
- Check out <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/exposed> if you have questions about symptoms or isolation.

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phsd.ca



- Regardless of vaccine status, do not send your child to school or any activities if they have [symptoms](#) of COVID-19.

3. Get back to basic public health measures & stay home if sick

- Stick carefully to basic public health measures in and outside the classroom. These measures all add up to great protection. They include getting vaccinated, wearing a mask, distancing of two metres, washing your hands, cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces, screening daily, and stay home when feeling unwell.
- Reduce the number of contacts your child has outside of school, especially informal gatherings where public health measures may not be in place. Social events like family get-togethers, play dates, and activities with other families are spreading the virus. When a child passes it on to other children, more schools and childcare settings are impacted. No one should attend a gathering or activity if they have any symptoms.

Each School Board has infection prevention and control measures in place to operate as safely as possible. Please continue to follow the policies and procedures of your School Board.

Update: Case and Contact Management Changes for Schools and Childcare Settings

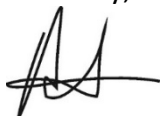
The provincial government has updated COVID-19 case, contact and outbreak management so that there is a focus on highest risk settings to protect those most at risk of severe disease and death (e.g., long-term care, hospitals, etc.).

For schools and day cares this means that cases and contacts will follow the steps outlined at this site: [What to do if you've been exposed to COVID-19 | COVID-19 \(coronavirus\) in Ontario](#). Rates of absenteeism will be tracked for schools and childcare settings. If there are high levels of absenteeism of staff and/or students, Public Health will work with the school to share information with families and ensure the right protections are in place. Public Health will no longer be contacting individual cases or contacts and it is unlikely that any classes or cohorts will be dismissed due to COVID-19. If absenteeism is high, there may be operational reasons for a school to shift back to virtual learning.

For more information, visit [Public Health Sudbury & District: Schools Childcare centres and COVID-19](#) for up-to-date COVID-19 guidance for school settings. We are here to support you.

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation to support children's wellbeing throughout this pandemic.

Sincerely,



Dr. Penny Sutcliffe
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer