

COVID-19 Reminder to Health Care Providers

Update to York Region health care providers as of January 6, 2021

Before children resume in person learning, we want to take this opportunity to remind our health care providers to please support public health guidance and recommendations and to phone York Region Public Health (dedicated Health Care Provider line) should you have any questions about the advice issued.

York Region Public Health has been hearing increasing anecdotal evidence that there are health care providers in our communities who are advising *against* the testing of asymptomatic children in school cohorts that have been sent home due to a probable or known positive case.

As a gentle reminder, in the [COVID-19 Guidance: School Outbreak Management](#) document, the Ministry of Health stipulates (pgs. 10 and 11) that when there is a confirmed or probable case in a cohort, one should:

- Test those who have been dismissed in the cohort as soon as possible *and* retest them if new or worsening symptoms develop within the 14-day self-isolation period

York Region Public Health has also been hearing increasing anecdotal evidence that patients are learning from their health care providers that resolved cases of COVID-19 are not required to self-isolate for 14 days following a *new exposure*.

As a gentle reminder, in the [Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario](#) document, the Ministry of Health stipulates (pg. 21):

- Self-isolation (quarantine) of a previous positive case is recommended for 14 days after a NEW high-risk exposure to a new unrelated case, mostly because duration of protection following COVID-19 infection is not clear
 - This does not apply to post-clearance exposures to related cases, such as cases within the same household or cases within an outbreak scenario. For example, in a long-term care home outbreak, if a cleared resident is exposed to a case within the same outbreak, they do not need to re-isolate
 - In schools we make this determination and will issue advice accordingly to the individual and their family re the need to re-self isolate

York Region Public Health would like to thank you for your ongoing support and commitment in helping us reduce the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

For more information

For up to date information on COVID-19, visit:

- york.ca/healthprofessionals
- york.ca/covid19
- ontario.ca/covid19

Health professionals can call our dedicated health professional COVID-19 line at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 77280 (Monday to Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

