

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CHILD CARE SETTINGS DURING COVID-19

Thursday May 20, 2021

Itchy eyes, blocked and/or runny nose, sneezing, tickle at the back of the throat and maybe trouble breathing? You may have children, staff, visitors in your child care centre who experience seasonal allergies and don't know what this means when they complete their daily screening tool. We encourage you to share the following information with everyone who attends your child care centre.

Is it seasonal allergies or COVID-19?

COVID-19, the common cold, seasonal allergies and the flu have many similar signs and symptoms and you may be wondering what this means when you complete your daily [screening tool](#).

Unlike COVID-19, seasonal allergies aren't caused by a virus; allergies are immune system responses triggered by exposure to allergens, such as seasonal tree or grass pollens. COVID-19 and seasonal allergies cause many of the same signs and symptoms.

There are some important differences between COVID-19 and seasonal allergies. Itchy nose, eyes mouth and inner ears are common symptoms of seasonal allergies, but not of COVID-19 and fever is common with COVID-19, but not with seasonal allergies.

If you are experiencing allergy symptoms for the **first time** this season **or** there is any change in the type of allergy symptom you usually experience, you and your household members should self-isolate and seek testing at a COVID-19 assessment centre, unless you have already tested negative for COVID-19 or a health care provider has determined your symptoms are allergy-related.

Ensuring COVID-19 cases in York Region continue to decrease is everyone's responsibility. It is easy to dismiss mild symptoms, but a mild symptom can quickly become more serious. Taking extra precautions will help to keep everyone safe.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to stop the spread of COVID-19. For more information please visit york.ca/SafeAtSchool.

PUBLIC HEALTH

1-877-464-9675
TTY 1-866-512-6228
york.ca/COVID19



Screening guidance reminders

- All children, staff and essential visitors attending the child care centre are required to complete the [York Region Public Health School and Child Care Screening Tool](#)
- Daily confirmation of a completed screening tool is required for all children, staff and essential visitors attending the child care centre. Parents and guardians continue to be responsible for screening their children for symptoms of illness every day
- Daily screening should be completed in-person at the child care centre prior to entry to the child care centre if not already completed prior to arrival
- Daily screening expectations should be discussed in advance with parents/guardians, staff and essential visitors
- Hand sanitizer should be available at the screening stations for individuals for use prior to entry
- Staff must escort children into the child care center after screening
- Parents/guardians should not go past the screening area or enter the child care centre unless there is a specific need to do so and the parent/guardian passes the screening

For more information on child care centres please visit the [Province of Ontario's COVID-19: reopening child care centres](#)