

Ministry of Health Issues new Guidance for School Outbreak Management

Update for York Region health care professionals as of August 31, 2020

York Region Public Health is committed to supporting the safe re-opening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year under the [Ministry of Education's Guide to re-opening Ontario's schools](#).

On August 26, the Ministry of Health released the [COVID-19 Guidance: School Outbreak Management](#). This guidance document provides information for local public health units (PHUs) investigating cases, outbreaks and suspected outbreaks associated with elementary or secondary (i.e., K-12) school settings. It is intended to supplement existing public health guidance on the [Management of Cases and Contacts of COVID-19 in Ontario](#).

The guidance document details roles and responsibilities for:

- PHUs
- Ministry of Health
- Ontario Health
- Public Health Ontario
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development

It also provides guidance on management of case(s) in schools, including the approach to case, contact, cohort, and outbreak management when there is one or more cases in the school.

We understand that many parents are concerned about the return to school, and you may receive questions from your patients. Consider reviewing the guidance document for schools to help answer any questions your patients may have.

As a reminder, in York Region mask use is required for students from grade 4 to 12 and encouraged (but not required) for students in kindergarten to grade 3. For more information on the return to school, please refer to york.ca/safeatschool.

York Region Public Health hosts interactive webinars with community-based health care providers to provide updates on COVID-19. To receive an invitation or submit questions for future webinars, please subscribe to [York Region's Public Health Matters](#).

Our next monthly webinar will take place in September. Details on date and time as well as slides from past webinars will be available at york.ca/healthprofessionals, on the [COVID-19 Information for Health Professionals page](#).

For more information

Call our dedicated health professional COVID-19 line at **1-877-464-9675 ext. 77280** (8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week, after hours call 905-953-6478) or email CIDIntakeLine@york.ca. Continue to visit york.ca/healthprofessionals, york.ca/covid19 and Ontario.ca/covid19 for up to date information on COVID-19.

