

COVID-19 Symptoms Updated by Ministry of Health

Update for York Region health care professionals as of May 13, 2020

On May 12, 2020, Ontario's Ministry of Health provided an additional update to the case definition and list of symptoms associated with COVID-19. Please review the details below and consider the case definition and symptoms when conducting your clinical assessments and diagnoses.

Updated COVID-19 Definition of a Probable Case

- A:** A person (who has not had a laboratory test) with symptoms compatible with COVID-19 **AND**:
- a) Traveled to an affected area (including inside of Canada) in the 14 days prior to symptom onset; **OR**
 - b) Close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19; **OR**
 - c) Lived in or worked in a facility known to be experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19 (e.g., long-term care, prison)

OR

- B:** A person with symptoms compatible with COVID-19 **AND** in whom laboratory diagnosis of COVID-19 is inconclusive

COVID-19 Definition of a Confirmed Case

A **confirmed** case of COVID-19 is defined as a person with a laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection.

Symptoms of COVID-19

The following lists outline the symptoms which have been most commonly associated with COVID-19. This information is current as of May 11, 2020 and may be updated as the situation on COVID-19 continues to evolve. If there is a discrepancy between this list and previous guidance, this list should be considered as the most up to date.

Common symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever (temperature of 37.8°C or greater)
- New or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath (dyspnea)

Other symptoms of COVID-19 can include:

- Sore throat
- Difficulty swallowing
- New olfactory or taste disorder(s)
- Nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain
- Runny nose, or nasal congestion – in absence of underlying reason for these symptoms such as seasonal allergies, post nasal drip, etc.

Other signs of COVID-19 can include:

- Clinical or radiological evidence of pneumonia

Atypical symptoms/signs of COVID-19 should be considered, particularly in children, older persons, and people living with a developmental disability. Atypical symptoms can include:

- Unexplained fatigue/malaise
- Delirium (acutely altered mental status and inattention)
- Unexplained or increased number of falls
- Acute functional decline

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- Exacerbation of chronic conditions
- Chills
- Headaches
- Croup
- Conjunctivitis (*new addition*)
- Multisystem inflammatory vasculitis in children (**see note below*)

Atypical signs can include:

- Unexplained tachycardia, including age specific tachycardia for children
- Decrease in blood pressure
- Unexplained hypoxia (even if mild i.e. O2 sat <90%)
- Lethargy, difficulty feeding in infants (if no other diagnosis)

* Recent reports indicate that there may be an increase in rare but serious multisystem inflammatory vasculitis, which appears similar to Kawasaki syndrome, impacting children diagnosed with COVID-19. While the link between this inflammatory illness and COVID-19 is not proven at this time, the Ministry of Health has added it to the COVID-19 case definition so that cases of this inflammatory illness will be reported and monitored.

For more information

Call our dedicated health professional COVID-19 line at **1-877-464-9675 ext. 77280** (8:30 a.m. to 8 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.