

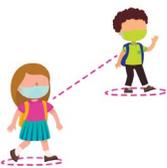
# What does Public Health do if COVID-19 is detected in a school, child care or day program?



## Notification

York Region Public Health will notify the school/child care centre (CCC) or day program that a positive case of COVID-19 attended while infectious.

York Region Public Health will notify parents/guardians/staff if there is a COVID-19 case with a general letter. The identity of the individual will remain private and confidential in accordance with the [Personal Health Information Protection Act](#).



## Contact tracing

York Region Public Health (YRPH) will follow up with the individual who tested positive in a school/CCC/day program to find out where the student or staff acquired the infection and to identify who had [close contact](#) with them (e.g., class cohort, bus cohort, before and after school program cohort).

**It is important to remember not all students and staff are at-risk if there is a COVID-19 case in the school/CCC/day program.**

Contact tracing will identify the affected cohort/individuals and they will receive a dismissal letter notifying them of their exposure. This letter will include self-isolation and testing instructions, and a date to return to school/CCC/day program.

YRPH will work with administrators/principals/operators to determine the dismissal requirements.



## Self-isolation

YRPH will provide self-isolation instructions for all close contacts. The isolation end date will either be stated on the letter or will be provided by a case investigator to the contacts.

While your child is isolating, monitor them for [symptoms of COVID-19](#).

It is recommended those in the affected cohort get tested on or after day 7 from their last exposure, as indicated in the dismissal letter. If symptoms develop prior to day 7, get tested immediately. Testing can be accessed at a [COVID-19 Assessment Centre](#).

*For specific household isolation instructions to be followed by individuals living in the same household as the close contact (the child in the affected cohort), please refer to the dismissal letter. Additional information can also be found in the [screening tool](#).*



## Safe return to school, child care centre, day program

If the close contact is asymptomatic and fully immunized or previously positive within the past 90 days and has since been cleared by Public Health, the individual is encouraged to seek out testing and should self-monitor for symptoms but does not need to self-isolate.

Individuals identified as a close contact by a dismissal letter and who are not fully vaccinated must self-isolate for 10 days. If the close contact does not have any symptoms and does not have a pending test result, it is safe to return to school/CCC/day program on the date stated in the dismissal letter.

**Stay Safe. Stay Informed.**

[york.ca/SafeAtSchool](http://york.ca/SafeAtSchool)





## Declaring an outbreak

YRPH is responsible for declaring an outbreak and providing guidance during an outbreak.

An outbreak is declared when there are two or more positive COVID-19 cases in a school/CCC/day program within a 14-day period, where at least one infection could have reasonably been acquired in the school/CCC/day program setting. This may include school-arranged transportation or before and after school care. An outbreak can be declared for a class, grade, bus or school cohort.

In collaboration with administrators/principals/operators, YRPH will declare the outbreak over after 14 days when there is no further student, attendee and/or staff (or other visitor) cases which could be linked to the exposed individuals.

Decisions to close school/CCC/day programs vary depending on the circumstance, such as for operational considerations or if widespread transmission is detected. School/CCC/Day Program closures are made collaboratively between administrators/operators and public health.



## Ministry of Health guidance

All Public Health Units across Ontario follow guidance from the Ministry of Health & Ministry of Education to help prevent the transmission of COVID-19 in the school/CCC/Day Programs. The [COVID-19 Guidance: School Outbreak Management](#) and [Operational Guidance for Child Care During COVID-19 Outbreak](#) documents are used to implement safety measures in the school/CCC/Day Programs.

### For more information:

For more information about COVID-19 in Schools/CCC/Day Programs, visit [york.ca/SafeAtSchool](http://york.ca/SafeAtSchool)

For more information on COVID-19 in York Region, visit [york.ca/COVID19](http://york.ca/COVID19), or call 1-877-464-9675.