Symptomatic Child at School or Child Care

DECISION GUIDE

Hamilton Public Health Services

Self-screening at home

First thing in the morning, the parent/child completes the School and Childcare Screening and follows prompts: https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/

Child becomes ill at school/childcare with **ANY** of the following symptoms: fever and/or chills; cough or barking cough (croup); shortness of breath; decrease or loss of taste or smell.

OR

TWO OR MORE of the following symptoms: sore throat, extreme fatigue, muscle aches/joint pain, headache, runny nose/nasal congestion and/or GI symptoms (i.e. nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea).

YES

Child and siblings go to isolation room.

School/childcare calls parent/ guardian to pick up child (and siblings) and take them home.

It is likely the child has COVID-19 and must isolate at home.

The child must isolate for **5 days** from their symptom onset if:

- They are fully vaccinated, *OR*
- They are under 12 years of age

The child must isolate for **10 days** from their symptom onset if:

- They are 12 years of age or older and partially vaccinated or unvaccinated, *OR*
- If they are immunocompromised, regardless of age and vaccination status.

Your child may return to school/childcare once their isolation has been completed and symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours (or 48 hours for GI symptoms, i.e. nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea).

All household members must isolate at home regardless of vaccination status. They must follow current isolation and testing guidance for individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19, which can be found in the link below.
https://www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus/covid-19-have-symptoms-or-been-exposed

Ill child remains masked & staff supervising wear full PPE.

Disinfect classroom, isolation room, work area & items.

NO

Child becomes ill but does not meet COVID-19 symptom criteria listed in the previous box.

Child goes to isolation room. Siblings remain in class.

School/childcare calls parent/ guardian to pick up child and take them home.

It is less likely that the child has COVID-19. The child must isolate at home. If needed, the family should contact a doctor to get advice or an assessment. The child may return to school/childcare when their symptoms have been improving for at least 24 hours (or 48 hours for GI symptoms, i.e. nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea).

Household members do not need to isolate. Siblings may continue to attend school/childcare.