



Lori Wilder, *Director of Education*

Bluewater District School Board

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

To minimize an unnecessary increase in student absences due to the new provincial daily COVID-19 screening guidelines, Grey Bruce Public Health has worked with the ministries of health and education to develop a solution that better reflects our positive local situation.

Attached is the new guidance document from public health. The key points are as follows:

1. **Reinstatement of the 24-hour monitoring period** of a single new symptom before determining the need to test or isolate; and
2. **Opportunity for students in Grades 5-12 and staff to “self-monitor” rather than isolate** if their sibling/child’s symptom persists beyond the 24 hours. (The decision to have only students in Kindergarten to Grade 4 isolate immediately with the child was made based on consultation with local physicians on the age at which most students could accurately report their own symptoms.)

Please note, when assessing symptoms, it is recommended that families use the provincial online tool as it contains many caveats/exceptions for symptoms that may support the ability to stay in school. For example, if the symptom is nausea, the tool allows for nausea due to a pre-existing condition, such as anxiety.

If you have any questions about specific situations, please consult with your school principal or contact public health directly at 519-376-9420, ext. 3000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Lori Wilder'.

Lori Wilder
Director of Education