



February 22, 2021

SINGLE SYMPTOM? STAY HOME! GET TESTED!

***NEW* Updates to Provincial School and Child Care Screening Tool**

In response to new guidance for COVID-19 Variants of Concern, the Ministries of Health and Education in Ontario have made changes to the COVID-19 School and Childcare Screening Tool.

Each day before going to work or school, staff and students must complete the following screening tool:

School and Child Care Screening Tool*

NOTE - the printable version of this tool has NOT been updated. Please use the online tool for now, and check back soon for the printer-friendly version

Important changes include:

- **Anyone with a single symptom needs to stay home, isolate, and get tested.** If a symptomatic person does not get tested, they must isolate for 10 days from the date that their symptoms started.
- **There is no longer a 24-hour observation period** for any symptom that is new, worsening, and not related to other known causes or conditions.
- **Household members must also stay home** while the symptomatic person waits for their test results or while they complete 10 days of self-isolation (if choosing not to test).
- If a student becomes ill at school, that student along with their siblings should be sent home. Siblings at other schools should go home as soon as they are able, however may complete the rest of their day at school if they are not symptomatic, but must stay home after that.

During this transition period, we expect that there will be a lot of questions and frustration amongst staff and families. Completing the provincial screening tool each day will provide staff and students with their next steps.

Though these new measures are more strict than the screening in place before, they are being put in place to keep our schools and communities safe. "All public health measures to reduce transmission of COVID-19 continue to apply to the new variants, but require more rigorous application due to the increased transmission risk. It is important that every effort is made to implement effective mitigation measures in all settings where people interact^[1]".

Please continue to reach out to the School Health Team with questions, suggestions or concerns.

Sincerely,

School Health Team
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schools@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

^[1] [VOC Guidance \(gov.on.ca\)](https://www.gov.on.ca)

Working together for a healthier future for all..

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