

# COVID-19 INFO

## PUBLIC MESSAGE FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN ATTENDING PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Outaouais Public Health Unit wants to inform you, equip you and support you during this pandemic period. The purpose of this bulletin is to convey the public health recommendations in response to the main issues raised.

**IMPORTANT:** Students or staff members showing symptoms associated with COVID-19 must not go to school. It is mandatory for them to stay at home.

### SYMPTOMS:

One of the following symptoms:

- Fever (>38°C)
- Cough (new onset or exacerbated chronic)
- Difficulty breathing
- Sudden loss of smell without nasal obstruction, with or without loss of taste

Or, at least 2 of the following symptoms:

- One general symptom (muscle pain, headache, intense fatigue, significant loss of appetite)
- Sore throat
- Diarrhea

If these symptoms are present, call 1-877-644-4545 and follow the recommendations. If the worker at 1-877-644-4545 did not direct the child to a COVID-19 screening test, he/she can return to school 24 hours after the end of his/her symptoms.



### 1. What happens when a student or staff member shows symptoms associated with COVID-19 while at school?

- **A student** showing symptoms is isolated in a room designated for that purpose and must wear a mask while waiting for his/her parents.
- **A staff member** showing symptoms must leave the workplace.
- After the student or staff member has left the school, then ventilation must be done as well as **disinfection** of the room, items and surfaces touched by the student or staff member.
- The student's parent or the staff member showing symptoms should contact the **COVID-19 hotline at 1-877-644-4545** and follow the recommendations.

Unless advised otherwise, parents will not be informed if a staff member or student showing symptoms associated with COVID-19 is removed from school. A number of these symptoms can be associated with various health conditions (e.g. cold, seasonal allergies, etc.). Therefore, it would be hasty to convey that kind of information without a health assessment.

## 2. What happens when a person living in the same household as a student shows symptoms associated with COVID-19 or is waiting for his/her test result?

- If a person living in the same household shows symptoms associated with COVID-19, or is waiting for his/her test result, parents must not send their child to school.

## 3. What happens when a staff member or student from the school receives a positive result for COVID-19?

- The staff member or the child's parent will be contacted by Public Health.
- During the investigation process conducted by public health, it is expected that:
  - **The people (students or staff members) who had close (nearby) contact with the individual who has COVID-19 will be contacted by phone by the Public Health Branch investigation team.** Those people will have to follow the isolation protocol and follow the recommendations issued by Public Health.
  - The people who had low-risk contact with the individual who has COVID-19 will be able to keep attending or working at school. They will receive a letter specifying the instructions to follow.
- If multiple cases are confirmed at the same setting and if the situation requires it, the Public Health Branch may recommend expanded testing within the school.

**IMPORTANT:** As part of its mandate, Public Health conducts epidemiological investigations of COVID-19, during which confidential information about individuals is collected. **That information cannot be disclosed** to either the public or a third party without the individual's consent.



## 4. What will happen during the period when my child is waiting for his/her COVID-19 test result?

- Your child will have to be isolated at home.
- Regarding the length of the isolation and the return to school, you will have to follow the recommendations issued when the sampling was done.

## 5. What will happen if my child receives a positive test result for COVID-19?

- You will be contacted by Public Health to identify his/her contacts considered at risk.
- You will be informed of the main recommendations to follow:
  - Isolation at home until your child is no longer considered contagious;
  - Limiting your child's contact with the people living in the same household;
  - Monitoring your child's symptoms.

## 6. What will happen if my child receives a negative test result for COVID-19?

- You will have to follow the instructions issued by Public Health. You will be informed about the return-to-school process, among other things.