

COVID-19: Update for TDSB Trustee Meeting February 9, 2021



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- COVID-19 data
- Variants of Concern and Schools
- Public health measures to keep schools safe
- Testing recommendations
- COVID-19 vaccine

Active Outbreaks In Schools	Cumulative Outbreaks In schools	Total Case Counts In Schools
1	176	1162

- **Average Cases per outbreak=6**
- **Average Outbreak duration= 21.8 days**
- **For number of cases in schools, please go to [the Ministry of Education](#) website**
- **For Toronto COVID Data, see the TPH website: [Status of Cases in Toronto](#)**

Figure 2. COVID-19 cases in school-aged children by age group and week, Toronto

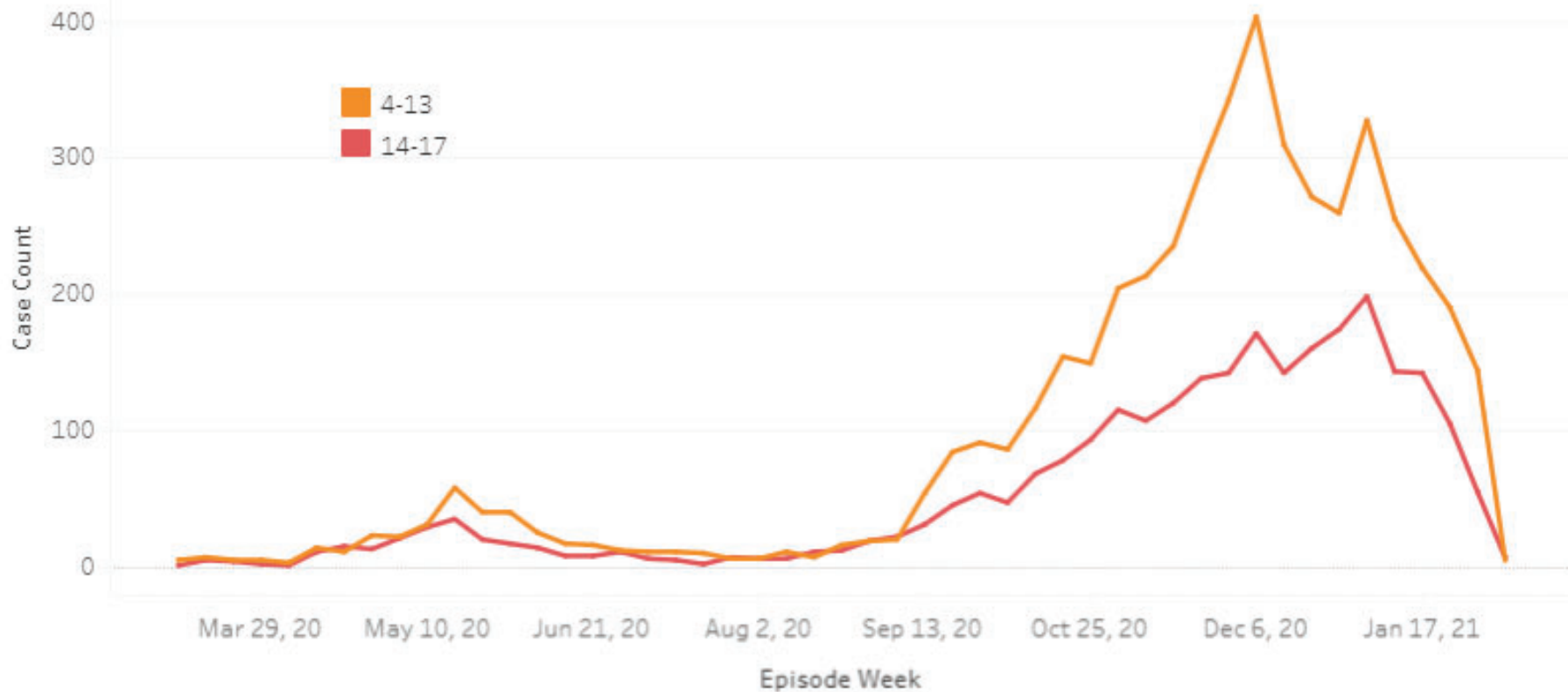


Figure 3. Case rate of COVID-19 per 100,000 population by age group and episode week, Toronto

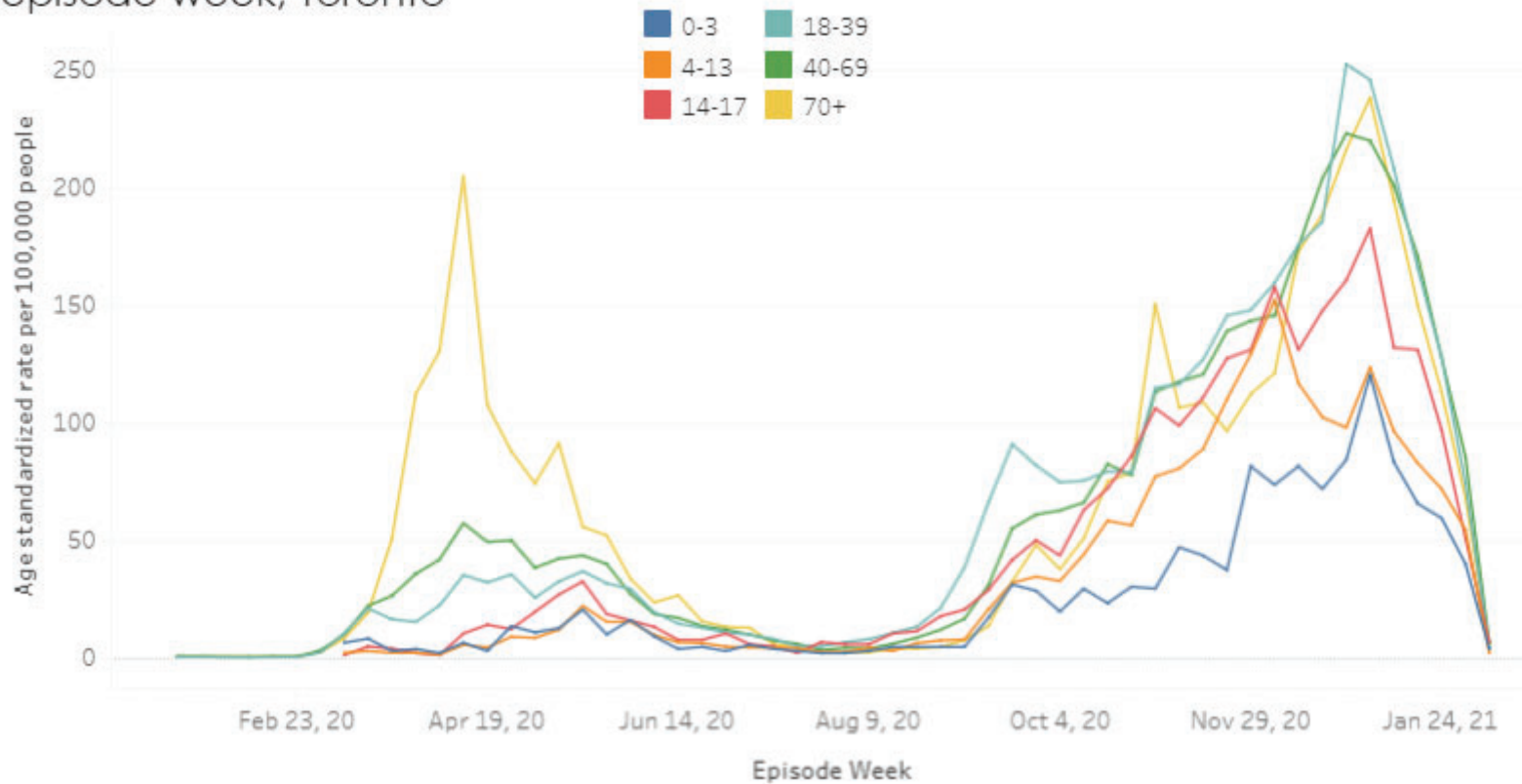
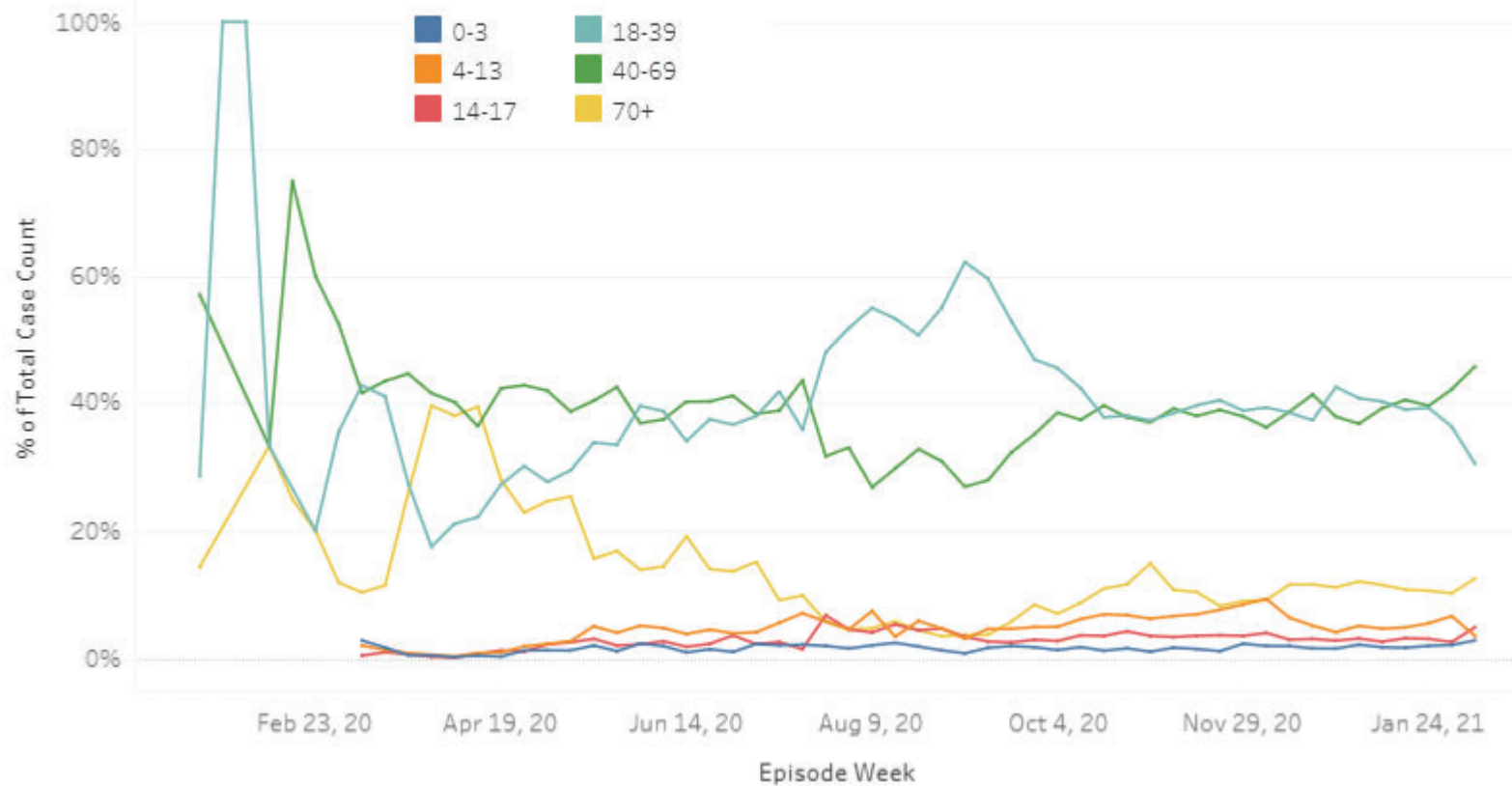


Figure 4. Proportion of COVID-19 cases by age group and episode week, Toronto



About Variants

New variants of SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19 have been reported in the news in recent weeks.

- Viruses constantly change through mutations
- New variants of a virus are expected to occur over time.
- Sometimes new variants emerge and disappear, and sometimes they emerge and persist
- New variants may lead to either decreases or increases in severity of illness, frequency of death, and how easily the virus spreads.

UPDATE ON VARIANTS OF CONCERNS (VOC)

See next slide

**UK VOC 202012/01, B.1.1.7
with 7 amino acid substitutions**

**South Africa VOC 501Y.V2, B.1.351
IC-0433 with 7 amino acid substitutions**

**Isolate from travelers from Brazil, B.1.1.248
IC-0561 with 12 amino acid substitutions**

There are potentials of other emerging variants

SARS-CoV-2 Variants

- **Concerns:**
 - ↑ Transmissibility
 - ↑ Disease severity
 - ↑ Risk of re-infection (immune escape mutants)
 - ↓ Vaccine efficacy (vaccine escape mutants)
 - ↓ Detection (diagnostic escape mutants)
- **Implications:**
 - ↑ Cases ↑ Hospitalizations ↑ Deaths
 - Effectiveness of interventions - directly (e.g., vaccine escape mutants) and indirectly (e.g. ↑ transmissibility)
 - Vaccination strategy?

Early evidence suggested higher transmissibility in children, that does not seem to be the case right now.

NOVEL (SARS-CoV-2) Variants - Update on COVID-19 Projections from Science Table

Key Findings of modelling by Science Table- related to schools

- The new variant of concern (UK variant) is spreading in Ontario and is a significant threat to control the pandemic.
- Modelling and international examples suggest that maintaining health interventions will support continued reductions in cases, even with a return to school.

How to we help keep schools safe from COVID-19 Variants

- Continue and stay vigilant with public health and IPAC measures -screening, masking, hand hygiene, physical distancing of 6 feet two meters, ventilation and cleaning and disinfection.
- Continue to encourage all to stay home if they are sick and go for testing if they have COVID-19 symptoms.
- If a VOC is identified in a school, intensive case and contact management

Screening – staff, students, visitors

STOP COVID-19 K - 12 STUDENT SCREENING TOOL
Please complete before entering the school.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

1. Does the student have any of the following new or worsening symptoms?*

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Fever > 37.8°C	Cough	Difficulty breathing	Loss of taste
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Feeling unwell, muscle aches or tired	Stuffy or runny nose	Headache	Sore throat or pain swallowing
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea			

If "YES" to any symptom: Stay home & self-isolate + Get tested Or Contact a health care provider

2. Is there a child or sibling in your household who has one or more of the above symptoms? Yes No

3. Has the student travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days? Yes No

4. Has the student been notified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19? Yes No

5. Has the student been told to stay home and self-isolate? Yes No

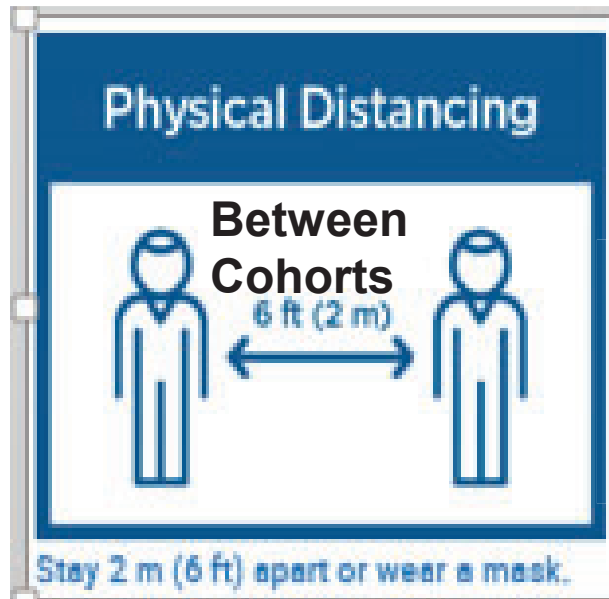
If "YES" to Questions 2, 3, 4 or 5: Stay home & self-isolate + Follow public health advice

*Children who have an existing health condition identified by a health care provider that gives them the symptoms should not answer YES, unless the symptom is new, different or getting worse. Look for changes from your child's normal symptoms.

Updated December 2020

TORONTO.CA/COVID19

Cleaning and Disinfection Frequent cleaning of surfaces



Keeping students in cohorts

Student/Staff/Visitor Face Mask Use



Ventilation in classrooms



School Screening Tools



Screening tool changes for both Student and Staff/Visitor Screening

- Symptom list remains the same for students/staff
- In effect as of February 16th, 2021
- Will also be checked to ensure completed each day.

Image from: Needpix.com

STOP COVID-19 K - 12 STUDENT SCREENING TOOL
Please complete before entering the school.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

1. Does the student have any of the following new or worsening symptoms?*

Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Fever > 37.8°C	Cough	Difficulty breathing	Loss of taste or smell
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Feeling unwell, muscle aches or tired	Stuffy or runny nose	Headache	Sore throat or pain swallowing
Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea			

If "YES" to any symptom: Stay home & self-isolate + Get tested Or Contact a health care provider

2. Does anyone in your household have one or more of the above symptoms? Yes No

3. Has anyone in your household travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days? Yes No

4. Has anyone in your household been notified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 or been told to stay home and self-isolate? Yes No

If "YES" to Questions 2,3, or 4: Stay home + Follow Toronto Public Health advice

*Children who have an existing health condition identified by a health care provider that gives them the symptoms should not answer YES, unless the symptom is new, different or getting worse. Look for changes from your child's normal symptoms.
Updated February 2021

[TORONTO.CA/COVID19](https://toronto.ca/covid19)

STOP COVID-19 Staff & Visitors complete before entering the school each day.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

1.) Do you have any of the following new or worsening symptoms or signs?*

Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Fever or chills	Cough	Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath	Sore throat or trouble swallowing
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Runny or stuffy nose	Decrease or loss of taste or smell	Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea	Not feeling well, extreme tiredness or sore muscles

If "YES" to any symptom: Stay home & self-isolate + Get tested Or Contact a health care provider

2.) Does anyone in your household have one or more of the above symptoms? Yes No

3.) Has anyone in your household travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days? Yes No

4.) Have you been notified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 or been told to stay home and self-isolate? Yes No

* If you have an existing health condition that gives you the symptoms you should not answer YES, unless the symptom is new, different or getting worse. Look for changes from your normal symptoms.
Updated February 2021

[TORONTO.CA/COVID19](https://toronto.ca/covid19)

Student (JK-12) Screening Tool



COVID-19 K - 12 STUDENT SCREENING TOOL

Please complete before entering the school.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

1. Does the student have any of the following new or worsening symptoms?*

Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Fever > 37.8°C	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Cough	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty breathing	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Loss of taste or smell	
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Feeling unwell, muscle aches or tired	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Stuffy or runny nose	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Headache	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat or pain swallowing	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea

If "YES" to any symptom: Stay home & self-isolate + Get tested Or Contact a health care provider

2. Does anyone in your household have one or more of the above symptoms? Yes No

3. Has anyone in your household travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days? Yes No

4. Has anyone in your household been notified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 or been told to stay home and self-isolate? Yes No

If "YES" to Questions 2, 3, or 4: Stay home + Follow Toronto Public Health advice

*Children who have an existing health condition identified by a health care provider that gives them the symptoms should not answer YES, unless the symptom is new, different or getting worse. Look for changes from your child's normal symptoms.

Updated February 2021

TORONTO.CA/COVID19

TORONTO Public Health

MY CHILD HAS 1 OR MORE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Was your child a close contact of someone who tested positive for COVID-19?

YES

- Everyone in the household should stay home & self-isolate. Get your child tested.
- If positive, notify your child's school of the positive result. Toronto Public Health will follow up with further instructions.
- If negative, the child will still need to self-isolate for 14 days from last exposure to the person who was positive. Any children in the household should self-isolate from school until the person who is a close contact completes self-isolation.
- If your child is not tested they need to self-isolate for 10 days. Household contacts will also need to stay home and self-isolate for 14 days.

NO

- Notify your child's school that they have symptoms.
- Your child should stay home, self-isolate & get tested.
- Anyone in the household who attends a school setting must also stay home and self-isolate until the child's test is negative.
- Adults in the home, including parents, who do not attend a school setting, need to self-monitor for symptoms, but may go to work as long as they do not have symptoms.

What was the result of your child's COVID-19 test?

POSITIVE

- Let your child's school know that they tested positive for COVID-19.
- Your child must stay home & self-isolate for 10 days from the day their symptoms started.
- Household members & close contacts must also self-isolate for at least 14 days.
- Toronto Public Health will contact you to do an investigation & will provide further instructions.

NEGATIVE

- Your child may return to school after it has been 24 hours since their symptoms started improving.
- Siblings can return to school right away as long as they do not have symptoms.
- Adults who attend the school setting can return to school right away as long as they do not have symptoms.

NOT TESTED

- Your child must stay home & self-isolate for 10 days from the day their symptoms started.
- After 10 days, they can go back to school if their symptoms are improving.
- Anyone in the household who attends a school setting will stay home for 10 days.
- If a health care provider has diagnosed a condition that isn't related to COVID-19, your child can return to school 24 hours after their symptoms improve. Their siblings are then not required to self-isolate for 10 days.



If anyone in your household has travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days, the person who travelled is required to self-isolate for 14 days. Everyone in the household will also need to stay home from school until the person who travelled completes the 14 day quarantine. If the individual is exempt from travel quarantine because they perform an essential job (e.g. truck driver, pilot), the rest of the household can still attend school.

TORONTO.CA/COVID19

TORONTO Public Health

Link to student screening [questionnaire](#) and [poster](#)

Symptoms remain the same

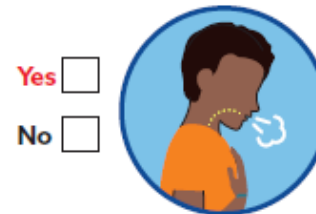
1. Does the student have any of the following new or worsening symptoms?*



Fever > 37.8°C



Cough



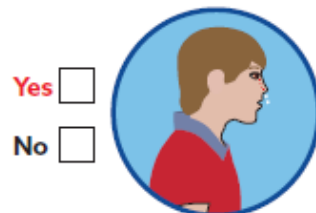
Difficulty breathing



Loss of taste or smell



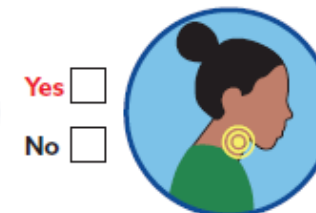
Feeling unwell,
muscle aches
or tired



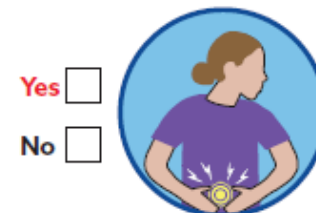
Stuffy or
runny nose



Headache



Sore throat or
pain swallowing



Nausea,
vomiting
or diarrhea

If "YES" to
any symptom:



Stay home
& self-isolate



Get
tested

Or



Contact a health
care provider

Student (JK-12) Screening

Change highlighted in Yellow

2. Does anyone in your household have one or more of the above symptoms?

Yes No

3. Has anyone in your household travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days?

Yes No

4. Has anyone in your household been notified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 or been told to stay home and self-isolate?

Yes No

If "YES" to
Questions
2,3,or 4:



Stay home



Follow Toronto
Public Health advice

*Children who have an existing health condition identified by a health care provider that gives them the symptoms should not answer YES, unless the symptom is new, different or getting worse. Look for changes from your child's normal symptoms.

School Staff /Visitor Screening



COVID-19 Staff & Visitors complete before entering the school each day.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

1.) Do you have any of the following new or worsening symptoms or signs?*

Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Fever or chills		Cough		Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath		Sore throat or trouble swallowing	
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Runny or stuffy nose		Decrease or loss of taste or smell		Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea		Not feeling well, extreme tiredness or sore muscles	

If "YES" to any symptom: Stay home & self-isolate + Get tested Or Contact a health care provider

- 2.) Does anyone in your household have one or more of the above symptoms? Yes No
- 3.) Has anyone in your household travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days? Yes No
- 4.) Have you been notified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 or been told to stay home and self-isolate? Yes No

* If you have an existing health condition that gives you the symptoms you should not answer YES, unless the symptom is new, different or getting worse. Look for changes from your normal symptoms.

If "YES" to Questions 2,3, or 4: Stay home + Follow Toronto Public Health advice

Updated February 2021

TORONTO.CA/COVID19



SCHOOL STAFF/VISITOR I HAVE ONE OR MORE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Were you a close contact of someone who tested positive for COVID-19?

YES

- Everyone, including household members, should stay home and self-isolate. Go for testing.
- If positive, notify the school. Toronto Public Health will follow up with instructions.
- If negative, you will still need to self-isolate for 14 days from last exposure to the person who was positive. Any children in the household should self-isolate from school until the person who is a close contact completes self-isolation.
- If you are not tested you need to stay home and self-isolate for 10 days. Household contacts will need to stay home and self-isolate for 14 days.

NO

- Notify the school that you have symptoms.
- You should stay home, self-isolate and get tested.
- Anyone in the household who attends a school setting must also stay home and until your test is negative.

What was the result of your COVID-19 test?

POSITIVE

- You must stay home & self-isolate for 10 days from the day your symptoms started.
- Household members & close contacts must also self-isolate for at least 14 days.
- Toronto Public Health or your local health unit will contact you to do an investigation & will provide further instructions.

NEGATIVE

- You may return to the school 24 hours after your symptoms have started improving.
- Children can return to school right away as long as they do not have symptoms.
- Adults who attend the school setting can return to school right away as long as they do not have symptoms.

NOT TESTED

- You must stay home & self-isolate for 10 days from the day your symptoms started. After 10 days, you can return to school if your symptoms are improving.
- Anyone in the household who attends a school setting must also stay home for 10 days.
- If a health care provider has diagnosed a condition that isn't related to COVID-19, you can return to the school 24 hours after your symptoms improve. Household members do not need to stay home.



If anyone in your household has travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days, the person who travelled is required to self-isolate for 14 days. Everyone in the household will also need to stay home from school until the person who travelled completes the 14 day quarantine. If the individual is exempt from travel quarantine because they perform an essential job (e.g. truck driver, pilot), the rest of the household can still attend school.

TORONTO.CA/COVID19



Symptoms remain the same

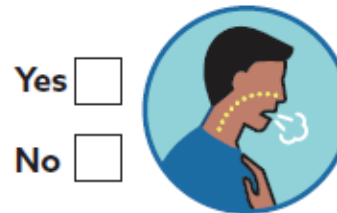
1.) Do you have any of the following new or worsening symptoms or signs?*



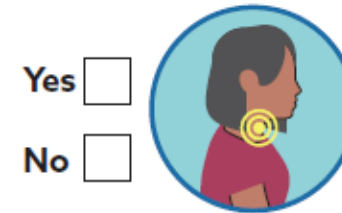
Fever or chills



Cough



Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath



Sore throat or trouble swallowing



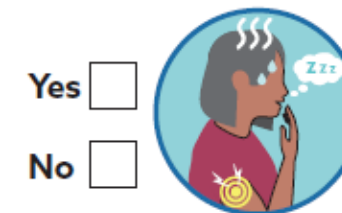
Runny or stuffy nose



Decrease or loss of taste or smell



Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea



Not feeling well, extreme tiredness or sore muscles

If "YES" to any symptom:



Stay home & self-isolate



Get tested



Contact a health care provider

School Staff/ Visitor Screening

Change highlighted in yellow

2.) Does anyone in your household have one or more of the above symptoms?

Yes No

3.) Has anyone in your household travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days?

Yes No

4.) Have you been notified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19 or been told to stay home and self-isolate?

Yes No

* If you have an existing health condition that gives you the symptoms you should not answer YES, unless the symptom is new, different or getting worse. Look for changes from your normal symptoms.

If "YES" to
Questions
2,3,or 4:



Stay home



Follow Toronto
Public Health advice

THE BEST MASK IS THE ONE THAT FITS WELL



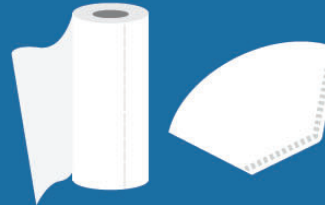
Snug fit, breathable
& comfortable

At least 2 layers of
tightly woven fabric
+ a filter for better
protection

2+ layers + a filter



Add a filter: cut paper
towel, coffee filter or
cloth filter fabric



Change it when it
gets wet or dirty

Always wear a mask indoors, and outdoors if you can't keep a physical distance.

Stay-at-home except to attend school or work

- Students can attend school each day, but should not gather with others, even those in their cohort.
- Continue to support stay-at-home measures to keep schools as safe as possible.
- Stay at home except to attend school, exercise outdoors or for healthcare appointments.
- Limit contact outside of school to only the people you live with.

Testing is one tool to help monitor COVID-19 in the school setting and keep schools safe.

COVID-19 Testing in Schools – Fall/ Winter 2020

Two types of COVID-19 Testing strategies that took place in Toronto Schools in Fall/Winter 2020

1) Ministry of Education School Wide Testing

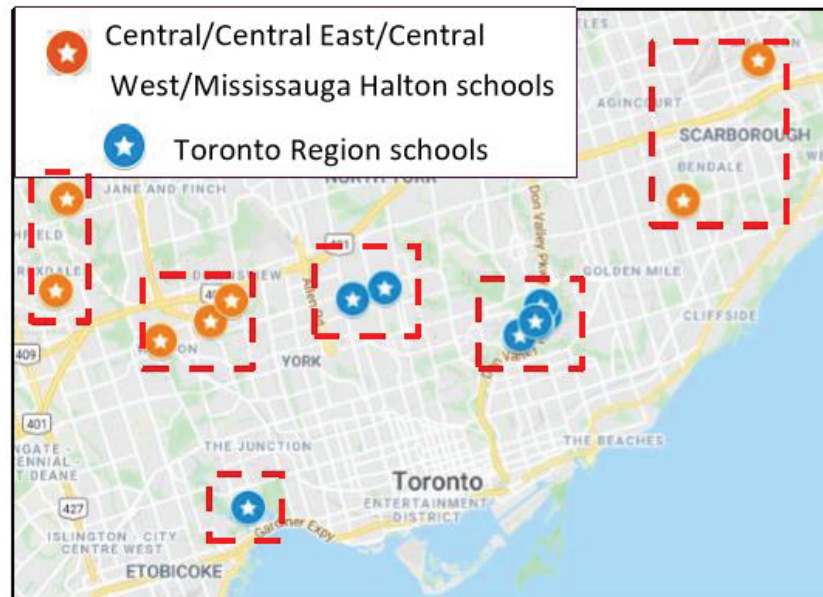
- 4 week pilot in schools identified in Peel, York, Ottawa and Toronto
- For schools in Toronto, TPH identified the school based on the following criteria: multiple cases of COVID-19 with an unknown source and unclear epidemiologic links and/or where multiple cohorts had been dismissed from the school.

2) **Co-ordinated testing-** TPH work with Ontario Health and testing partners to organize testing opportunities when a cohort is dismissed by TPH due to high risk exposure.

School Testing Update: MOE pilot

Phase 1: Schoolwide Testing Summary November 23rd to Dec 18th, 2021

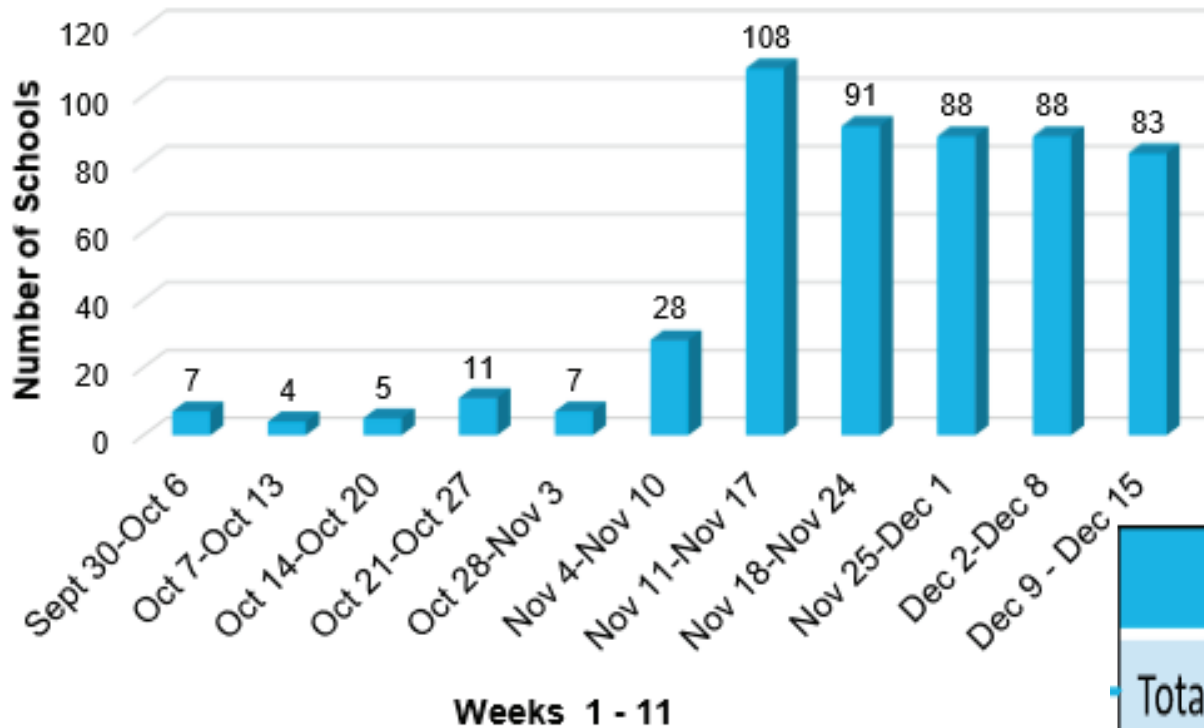
Total Schools recommended for testing as part of MEDU:	Total number of individuals recommended for expanded testing:	Total number of individuals tested:
18	9,998 students, 1095 staff	2878 students, 558 staff*



- Average of 607 students per school (range 195 to 1,116) recommended for expanded testing.
- Testing uptake:
 - Students: median 31% (range 4.8 to 95.0%)
 - Staff: median 54%
- Overall positivity rate for students:
 - median 1.2% (range from 0 to 11%)
- Positivity rates varied across schools. Several schools had no positive student cases while others had higher positivity rates. School positivity rates tended to reflect community rates.

School Testing Update: Coordinated Testing Sept- Dec 2020

**Number of Schools
Recommended for Testing by TPH***



Recommendations for Testing

Total number of schools	544
Total number of students	18017
Total number of staff	1970

Symptomatic Testing

- Students and staff who have even one mild symptom of COVID-19
- Household members who have even one mild symptom

Toronto Public Health's Asymptomatic Targeted Testing Recommendations

Asymptomatic testing:

- TPH continues to recommend large amounts of asymptomatic testing related to schools.
- TPH collaborates with testing partners to coordinate testing for all high-risk cohorts.
- Over 550 cohorts were supported in the Fall using this testing program.

Toronto Public Health's Asymptomatic Targeted Testing Recommendations

COVID-19 testing in schools occurs following:

- Case and contact investigations (including dismissed cohorts)
- Outbreak management (including whole school testing when recommended).

Toronto Public Health's Asymptomatic Targeted Testing Recommendations

Expanded testing (whole school asymptomatic testing) may be recommended if:

- a) Case(s) in the school with unknown acquisition OR
- b) Multiple cohorts were dismissed OR
- c) Confirmed case identified with a variant of concern.

- Low uptake of testing overall
- Take-home, mobile, on-site testing and reminders to parents and one to one consultation with families supports higher testing uptake.
- Less invasive testing options are preferred in school settings, such as saliva or oral/nose.

Areas to address for testing

- Reduce barriers to testing (location, time, stigma, type of test, increased access to income replacement, job security etc.)
- Better access to testing
- Testing access and turn around for symptomatic students (so public health can take timely action if positive, or they return to school quickly if negative)
- Communication to parents, staff and administrators to increase uptake

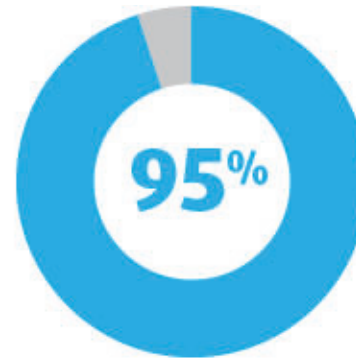
COVID-19 Vaccines



Approved by
Health Canada



Met safety &
quality
standards



94-95%
effective
in large trials



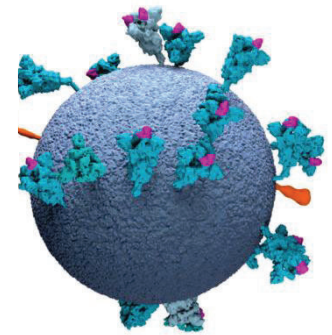
2 dose
schedule

COVID-19 Vaccines for use in Canada

Manufacturer	Pfizer	Moderna
Approved by Health Canada	9 Dec. 2020	23 Dec. 2020
Age Eligibility	16 years +	18 years +
2-Dose Schedule	21 days apart	28 days apart
Potential Allergens	Polyethylene glycol (PEG)	Polyethylene glycol Tromethamine

How the vaccine works...

- **messenger RNA** tells our body to make “*spike proteins*”, a protein specifically found on the surface of the coronavirus
- These proteins will stimulate our body to start making antibodies against COVID-19
- The mRNA breaks down and is removed from our body within days
- The vaccine does not contain the virus, so it cannot give us COVID-19



What is in the vaccine...

The vaccine is made up of:

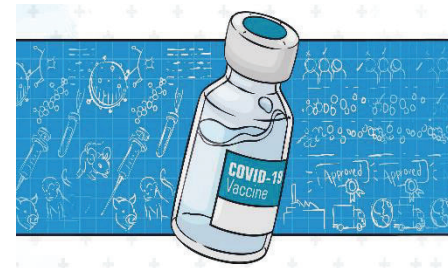
- messenger RNA (mRNA)
- lipid molecules, including polyethylene glycol
- salts, sugars and buffers (tromethamine)

Both vaccines do not contain gelatin (pork), preservatives, formaldehyde, thimerosal, aluminum, latex, antibiotics, virus, animal or human cells.

Common Side Effects

As with any medication or vaccine, there may be some side effects:

- pain, redness & swelling at injection site
- headache, fatigue
- muscle ache, joint pain
- fever, chills, nausea, vomiting
- under arm swelling or tenderness (in Moderna vaccine)
- less common is enlarged lymph nodes



The effects will last only a few days.

Ontario's Distribution Plan as of Feb 02

Phase 1 Dec 2020 to Mar 2021	Phase 2 Mar 2021 to July 2021	Phase 3 Aug 2021 onwards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ health care workers ▪ hospital employees ▪ residents and staff of LTCH, RH & congregate settings ▪ essential caregivers ▪ adults in Indigenous communities ▪ 344,615 doses administered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ all health care workers ▪ residents in LTCHs, RHs, etc. ▪ home care patients ▪ shelters, community living ▪ Indigenous communities ▪ older adults, 80+ ▪ frontline essential workers 	<p style="text-align: center;">all Ontarians</p>

The race to save lives...

As of February 8, 2021:

- 134 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been given in 64 countries.
- United States has given 32.8 million doses.
- Countries with the highest vaccination rates are Israel, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Bahrain, United States, Italy & Germany

<https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/covid-vaccine-tracker-global-distribution/>

<https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations>

Public Health Measures

Vaccines are one of many tools we have to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. It will take time before we have enough vaccine to get everyone vaccinated.



We still need to wear a mask, keep our distance and wash our hands frequently.

- [Toronto Public Health](#)
- [Ontario Health](#)
- Telehealth Ontario: 1-866-797-0000
- [Government of Canada](#)
- Your healthcare provider

If you have more questions:

Schools and parents/caregivers can
also call us at **416-338-7600**

Contact Toronto Public Health

8:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.

416-338-7600

TTY: 416-392-0658

Email: PublicHealth@toronto.ca

COVID-19 Guidance: Elementary & Secondary Schools

Last updated: November 4, 2020 at 5:55 p.m.

Toronto Public Health partnered with Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment (MLSE) to raise awareness about ways we can reduce the spread of COVID-19. Find out what local athletes and coaches have to say about [staying healthy in unprecedented times](#)¹⁰, [why we need to watch our distance](#)¹¹ and [wearing your mask at school](#)¹².

On June 19, the Government of Ontario [released its safety plan for the resumption of class for the 2020-21 school year](#)¹³, outlining scenarios for how students, teachers and staff can safely return to classrooms in September. On July 30, the Government of Ontario released [further plans for the safe re-opening of schools in September](#)¹⁴.

Download Toronto Public Health's [Guidance for Reopening Schools](#) (JK to 12) (also available below and in [French](#)) and [COVID-19 Prevention Checklist for Schools JK to Grade 12](#) (also available below and in [French](#)).

The [Planning Guide for Schools](#) identifies issues and critical elements of emergency preparedness that organizations should consider in planning for a pandemic.

The Government of Ontario provides a daily update on [COVID-19 cases reported in schools and child care centres](#)¹⁵.

Also read Toronto Public Health's [follow-up instructions for school children, staff and visitors tested for COVID-19](#) (also available in [French](#)).

Expand All +

Collapse All -

Guidance for Re-Opening Schools JK to Grade 12 +

Checklist for Schools JK to Grade 12 +

COVID-19 Contact List for Schools +

COVID-19 School Decision Guides +

Back to School Confirmation Form +

School Screening Tools +

Student Nutrition Programs +

Resources for Schools JK to Grade 12 +

Liaison Public Health Nurses +

Information for Parents +

We encourage schools to check toronto.ca/COVID19SchoolInfo as new information is posted regularly.

**Thank you for
working to keep
our school
communities
safe !**

