

Letter to Parents When Sending Students Home

Dear Parent or Guardian,

As a follow up to our conversation, this will confirm that on **[Today's Date]**, your child, **[Student Name]** and/or an individual living in your household has acknowledged that they are experiencing at least one (1) COVID-19 symptom:

- Fever and/or chills**
Temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius/100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Cough or barking cough (croup)**
Continuous, more than usual, making a whistling noise when breathing (not related to asthma, post-infectious reactive airways, or other known causes or conditions you already have)
- Shortness of breath**
Out of breath, unable to breathe deeply (not related to asthma or other known causes or conditions you already have)
- Decrease or loss of taste or smell**
Not related to seasonal allergies, neurological disorders, or other known causes or conditions you already have
- Nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea**
Not related to irritable bowel syndrome, anxiety, menstrual cramps, or other known causes or conditions you already have

What should you do next?

- Seek medical advice for your child, and have your child tested for COVID-19 as appropriate or advised by your health care provider.
- Your child must stay home and not leave except to get tested or for a medical emergency.
- Siblings or other people in the home **who are fully vaccinated do not need to isolate and can leave the home.**
- Siblings or other people in the home **who are not fully vaccinated must stay home** until your child:
 - tests negative for COVID-19; OR
 - are cleared by your local public health unit; OR
 - are diagnosed with another illness.

When can your child(ren) return to school?

If your child gets tested for COVID-19 and tests NEGATIVE:

Your child can return to school/childcare when **ALL** the following apply:

- they do not have a fever (without using medication)
- it has been at least 24 hours since the symptoms started improving (or 48 hours if they have had nausea/vomiting/diarrhea)
- they were not in close physical contact with someone who currently has COVID-19

If your child gets tested for COVID-19 and tests POSITIVE:

Your child can return to school/childcare only when cleared by Halton Region Public Health.

If your child does not get tested for COVID-19:

Your child must isolate for 10 days. They may be able to return earlier if **ALL** the following apply:

- a doctor diagnosed them with another illness
- they do not have a fever (without using medication)
- it has been at least 24 hours since their symptoms started improving (or 48 hours if they had nausea/vomiting/diarrhea)

If you do not seek medical advice:

Your child **must isolate for 10 days**. **After the 10 days, they can return to school only when ALL the following apply:**

- they do not have a fever (without using medication)
- it has been at least 24 hours since their symptoms started improving (or 48 hours if they had nausea/vomiting/diarrhea)