

Information for Parents: COVID-19 Notification and Illness in School

August 2020

Students should never go to school if they are sick or if anyone living in the home has tested positive for COVID-19. Everyone in the home must self-isolate for 14 days from the date of last exposure if anyone tests positive.

Parents will be advised if a COVID-19 related risk is identified to the health and safety of students, staff or the local school community. Timely updates will be provided to parents and teachers about any new developments.

If a student, teacher or staff member displays COVID-19 symptoms while at school:

- They will be asked to wear a non-medical mask and self-isolate in a separate room until they are able to go home. A parent/guardian will be notified that their child is ill.
- A COVID-19 test is recommended. Call HealthLine 811 or your family doctor to arrange testing. If you are located in Regina or Saskatoon, consider visiting a drive-through testing site, where no appointment is required.
- Public health will provide further guidance about when it's possible to return to school.
- All school areas used by the individual will be identified and immediately cleaned and disinfected.

If a positive test result is received by a student or teacher:

- If a child, teacher or staff members tests positive for COVID-19, public health will provide assistance and begin the contact tracing process immediately. This process is followed in all identified COVID-19 positive cases and provides guidance on monitoring and isolation to all close contacts. Anyone living in the same home would be considered a close contact. The investigation will identify anyone else who may have been a close contact.
- Teachers, staff and parents/caregivers of students who are considered to be close contacts of a person with COVID-19 will be contacted directly by public health via the contact tracing process.
- All teachers, staff and parents/caregivers of students in the same classroom (cohort) of a person with COVID-19 will be contacted directly by public health and by their school via email. This notification will occur separate from the contact tracing process.
- Those teachers, staff and parents/caregivers of students in the same cohort who are considered to be non-close contacts will be advised to self-monitor for symptoms and be offered priority testing options.
- Public Health will then advise on further actions that may be required, and it is important to note this could vary based on the circumstances of the positively identified case. A positive case in the cohort (classroom) may not present a high risk to the entire cohort.

- Further steps could include requirements for the cohort (classroom) to self-isolate at home and public health will advise in each situation.
- Those teachers, staff and parents/caregivers of students in the school population, outside of the same cohort, can also seek public health advice regarding self-monitoring for symptoms, transmission risk and access to priority testing options at any time.