

February 19, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We are writing to inform you that the Provincial [COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening Tool](#) has been updated. You will see that a more cautious approach has been adopted within this tool. These updates are in response to the new variants of concern that have been identified within Ontario. The new COVID-19 variants transmit more easily therefore, require additional precautions to prevent the spread within the community.

To keep our schools safe places to learn and grow, screening for COVID-19 must take place every day before attending. By answering the questions in the [COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening Tool](#) it will help you decide if your child should or should not attend school and the next steps to take. The changes to this screening tool are as follows:

New Single-Symptom Screening

Students and children with **any** new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19, **even those with only one symptom**, must stay home (self-isolate) until:

- They receive a negative COVID-19 test result, symptoms are improving, no fever, and they are feeling well enough to go to school.
- They receive an alternative diagnosis by a health care professional; or
- It has been 10 days since their symptom onset and they are feeling better.

New Isolation Requirements for Household Contacts of Individuals with Symptoms

- **ALL** household contacts of individuals with new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19 are required to self-isolate until the individual with symptoms receives a negative COVID-19 test result or an alternative diagnosis by a health care professional.
- If the individual with symptoms does not seek COVID-19 testing, they must isolate for 10 days from their onset of symptoms and **ALL** household members must self-isolate for 14 days from their last contact with the symptomatic individual.

New Isolation Requirements for Household Members of High-Risk Contacts

- High risk contacts are individuals who have had a close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual.
- **ALL** household members of a high-risk contact will be asked to stay home for the duration of the high-risk contact's self-isolation period, except for essential reasons. Essential reasons include attending work/school/childcare and essential errands such as groceries, attending medical appointments or picking up prescriptions.

Upon return to school, the school may request that the [Back to School Confirmation form](#) be completed to attest that your child is healthy and able to return to school.

We recognize that these new changes may create challenges for families. We'd like to draw your attention to the Government of Canada's [website](#) that outlines benefits and services to help Canadians facing hardship. For local supports, please visit the [United Way of Leeds & Grenville](#) and [Lanark County](#) and [United Way of SD&G](#) and [Prescott-Russell](#) websites.

For more information on COVID-19, please visit: <https://healthunit.org/coronavirus/> or call our school phone line at 1-866-236-0123 for the Leeds, Grenville & Lanark District Health Unit region or please visit: <https://eohu.ca/en/covid-19-novel-coronavirus> or call our school phone line at 1 800-267-7120 and press 5 for the Eastern Ontario Health Unit region.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

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