

COVID-19 Update

February 9, 2022

The following are the **updates** related to COVID-19 from the past few weeks:



All TVDSB protocols can be located at:

Direct SharePoint Link: [COVID-19 Protocols](#)

Updated protocols to reflect the current Health, Safety and Operational Guidance for schools include:

Protocol 2 - Screening and Vaccination Requirements

Protocol 2A - Staff TVARRIS Absence Coding – COVID-19

- *quarantine/isolation requirements for individuals with COVID-19 symptoms who are unable to pass the screening are lifted after 10 calendar days. If employees are no longer required to quarantine/isolat, as aligned with Health Unit guidance but are still ill, the absence should be entered as “Illness Leave”*
- *“COVID-19 Personal Sick” is only to be used if staff do not have access to quarantine in their collective agreement*

Protocol 19 – Music

Protocol 7 - Personal Protective Equipment

PPE	Product	Details - Update
N95 (NIOSH)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Can be used for multiple days✓ Replace once per day or when they become wet, damaged or visibly soiled✓ Not used outside <p>Training information for staff interested in the N95 mask can be found in the Employee Portal --> Employee Training</p> <p><i>All locations should have an inventory, please note stock is extremely limited as resupply from province has not been received.</i></p> <p>**Staff may still use their own purchased N95 or Health Canada equivalent.**</p>
Eye Protection		<p>The following settings require eye protection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ In classrooms (and during lunch supervision) when students are not wearing face coverings/masks, when distancing of 2m cannot be consistently and constantly maintained regardless of duration✓ Outside, on supervision, when not able to consistently maintain distancing of 2m✓ When students are wearing face covering such as bandanas and gaiters

NEW!

Information/ Clarification:

New Information:

COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening Tool (Updated February 4th):

The [School and Child Care Screening Tool](#) has now been updated to align with the [COVID-19 Integrated Testing & Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Interim](#)

[Guidance: Omicron Surge](#). Both the interactive online version and the downloadable PDF in French and English have been updated online. The key revisions are as follows:

Revisions to screening questions:

- Option to select “no” to the symptom question if the individual has tested negative on one PCR or rapid molecular test, or two RATs 24-28 hours apart.
- Option to select “no” to the question related to having tested positive if symptoms started before test result and the required isolation period is already complete.
- Option to select “no” to questions about being a close contact and about a household member having symptoms or a positive test, if the individual was previously positive in the last 90 days.
- Clarification in the question about being a close contact that given the multiple protective strategies in place, contacts who are only exposed at school or child care **are not** generally considered close contacts requiring isolation – and may select “no” to the question if their contact to a case was only at school/child care.

Revisions to the screener results:

- Clarification throughout that “when determining your isolation period, the day your symptoms began is Day 0. For example, for those isolating 5 days, if you develop symptoms on Saturday (Day 0), you can return to school on Friday (Day 6).” Please note a resource provided below from the MLHU that may assist with this isolation period determination.
- Clarification in the result for individuals with only one symptom of muscle aches/joint pain, extreme tiredness, sore throat, runny or stuffy/congested nose, headache, nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea that if the individual has also been identified as a close contact, they must isolate for 5/10 days.
- Clarification in the results for “Do Not Attend” due to a household member isolating with symptoms or a positive result that “If another household member develops symptoms or tests positive, you must continue isolating until they have also finished their own isolation period. The initial household member(s) with symptoms and/or positive test results do not have to extend their isolation period based on other household members developing symptoms.”
- Revised guidance for close contacts who have already tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days:
 - ✓ They are not required to self-isolate if they are asymptomatic;
 - ✓ They should self-monitor symptoms for 10 days from last exposure; and
 - ✓ They can attend work.

N95 Masks

We have received a shipment of N95 masks and are in the process of distributing these to schools. Only those schools who responded to the *N95 request for feedback* the morning of February 4th will be receiving additional N95 masks. Schools that missed this deadline can still put in a request through HelpHub (HelpHub > Managing my school or department > COVID PPE Shortage - Replenishment Order Form or go into HelpHub and search "PPE"). Please note that delivery may be delayed for these orders.

The Ministry has recently advised us we will continue to receive NIOSH approved N95 masks, but they may be different styles and/or brands. Please note that a choice of different N95 mask/respirator is not available.



Reminders/ Action Items:

Third Dose Booster: The Ministry of Education has asked school boards to connect with staff to determine if they have received their third dose booster. **No proof is required.** Please log into the Employee Portal, COVID-19 Applications > COVID-19 Vaccination Attestation and choose “yes or no” if you have received your booster. Please note that this upload is not currently mandated by the Ministry or Public Health Units.

Booster received? Please indicate if you have received you 'Booster' in addition to being fully vaccinated

Yes

No

If you are completing this Attestation for the first time and do not have your booster, please click 'No' and refer to the appropriate status below for your current situation



Resources:

Health and Well-Being Workshops

Please be reminded of the voluntary staff workshops available through Homewood Health.

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- [COVID-19 Protocols](#)
 - [Southwest Public Health Unit Website](#)
 - [Middlesex-London Public Health Unit Website](#)
 - [Ontario School and Child Care Screening Tool](#) (Updated: February 4,2022)
 - [Self-Isolation Requirements Resource](#)
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Who to contact?

- PPE Questions are to be directed to School Administrator/ Manager/ Supervisor who would then contact their respective Safety Specialist for your school.
- If you require additional supply of goggles, please contact your Administrator and requests can be made to the warehouse through the HelpHub. [COVID PPE Order Form](#) (Only Administrators have access to place a supplemental COVID PPE Order.)
- Homewood Health (EFAP): **1-800-663-1142** for speech or hearing impaired: **1-888-384-1152**



Question/Answer

Q: I have been informed that someone who I was visiting with outside of work has now tested positive for COVID-19. Am I to self-isolate?

A: In consultation with our local public health units, only household members of confirmed cases of COVID-19 are required to isolate. All other individuals are to monitor symptoms and ensure they are completing the daily screener.

Q: Can you clarify the use of “cohorts” in elementary schools?

A: For elementary and secondary schools, inside a “cohort” is considered a class. For elementary schools, outdoors, the use of the term “cohort” represents a “large group” which is a group of classes (e.g., grade 2 classes, junior division). These “large groups” are approved by the local public health unit and recognize that use of “cohorting” outdoors by class is not feasible on school yards. Please note: that cohorting is to occur outdoors; therefore, elementary students should be maintaining, as best as possible, their large groups during recess/ lunch.