

January 6, 2022

**Memorandum to:** Directors of Education  
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

**From:** Nancy Naylor  
Deputy Minister

**Subject:** **Updates to the School Screening Tool**

On January 3, 2022 the government of Ontario announced a range of time-limited public health actions to help curb the spread of COVID-19 variants in Ontario. I am writing to notify you of the new updates made to the [COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#) and the [COVID-19 screening tool for employees and essential visitors in schools and child care settings](#).

On the recommendation of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, a more sensitive COVID-19 symptom list is being reinstated for daily active screening of all students and staff in schools and child care. Anyone who has symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 or is a confirmed positive case must self-isolate, regardless of vaccination status. These strengthened screening requirements are another way that we are helping to protect students, education and child care workers, and children in child care from COVID-19.

Updated testing and isolation guidelines are also reflected in the new screeners.

Updated versions of the screening tool are posted on [Ontario.ca/SchoolScreening](#). Please ensure that staff, students and families are aware of and using the updated screener when they return to in-person learning. Similar to the 2020-21 school year, the downloadable screening tool will be made available in multiple languages. These additional languages will be added online shortly.

We will continue to update the screening tool as public health guidance evolves and are committed to keeping schools and school boards informed of any changes. We ask that you continue to work with your public health units to review your own screening materials to ensure that they meet the minimum requirements outlined in provincial guidance. Public health units continue to have the authority to implement additional measures based on local circumstances.

Thank you once again for your ongoing partnership and continued efforts to provide working families with access to quality learning opportunities and child care. By continuing to follow public health advice and getting vaccinated, we can help limit the spread of COVID-19 and limit the disruption for students and children in child care.

Sincerely,

Nancy Naylor  
Deputy Minister

c: Board COVID-19 Leads

Executive Director, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO)

Executive Director, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)

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