



AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM ALGOMA PUBLIC HEALTH

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We want to inform you about additional COVID-19 safety measures in schools and child care that are now in effect across Ontario. The new measures build on the existing ones that have been in place since September, and were added due to the COVID-19 variants of concern that are emerging.

Parents and guardians have an important role to play in making sure the new measures are followed, and they will require us all to be even more diligent.

The most significant change is:

If any member of a household has new or worsening symptom of COVID-19 (child or adult), even if they only have one symptom, the person with symptoms AND all other household members are required to isolate until:

- The symptomatic individual receives a negative COVID-19 test result, or
- Receives an alternate diagnosis by a health care professional
- If there is no test or alternate diagnosis, the symptomatic individual must isolate for 10 days from symptom onset, and all other household members must isolate for 14 days from their last contact with the symptomatic individual.

The provincial school and child care screening tool has been updated to provide this direction. Parents and guardians must screen their child each day before going to school or child care. The screening tool is available online at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>. Grade 9-12 students must also verify that they have completed the daily screen once they arrive at school.

Thank you to parents, guardians, educators, school staff and the broader school community who have been practising prevention measures over the course of this pandemic.

Algoma Public Health