

# COVID Update

*Following is some information to help you navigate the most current guidelines from Public Health. Topics include:*

**Daily Health Check**

**What to do When Sick**

**What to Do if Someone in Your Household is Sick**

**If You Test Positive for COVID-19**

**Decision-Making Summary**

## Daily Health Check:

Everyone going into a school must complete a daily health check, including staff, visitors, and students. A daily health check means checking yourself or your child for new symptoms of illness, including symptoms of COVID-19.

### Symptoms of illness (including COVID-19) include things like:

- Fever (above 38°C) or chills
- Difficulty breathing
- Runny Nose
- Headache
- Diarrhea
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Sneezing
- Body aches
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Loss of appetite
- Extreme fatigue or tiredness
- Nausea or vomiting

**IF YOU ARE SICK OR FEEL UNWELL, STAY AT HOME.**

**This is important to stop the spread of illness, including COVID-19, in schools.**

You can attend school if:

- Your symptoms are consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition (e.g., seasonal allergies), OR
- You have existing symptoms that have improved to where you feel well enough to return to regular activities,

AND if you are not required to self-isolate, or your self-isolation period is over (based on a positive COVID-19 test result, if taken).

## What to Do When Sick:

If you have mild symptoms of COVID-19, you usually don't need a test. Mild symptoms are symptoms that can be managed at home. Most people don't need testing for COVID-19.

Stay home and away from others (as much as possible) until you feel well enough to return to your regular activities and you no longer have a fever. You should also avoid non-essential visits to higher risk settings such as long term care facilities and gatherings, for another 5 days after ending isolation.

If you have a Rapid Antigen Test at home, use it when you have symptoms. How long you should stay home depends on your test result. Find out more about [Rapid Antigen Test results](#).

If you do not have symptoms of COVID-19, you do not need a test.

If you are unsure about your symptoms, you can use the [Self-Assessment Tool](#), contact your health care provider, or call 8-1-1.

Testing may be recommended for some people who may be more likely to get severe disease. See BCCDC for information on [who testing is recommended for](#).

## What to Do if Someone in Your Household is Sick:

You can continue to attend school if someone in your household is sick and/or self-isolating as long as you do not have any symptoms of illness and you feel well. This includes if they have tested positive for COVID-19.

Try to stay apart from the person in your household who is sick as much as possible.

Ensure you closely monitor yourself (or your child) for symptoms of illness and stay home if you develop symptoms of illness or feel unwell.

## If You Test Positive for COVID-19:

Your age and vaccination status determine how long you should self-isolate for if you test positive for COVID-19.

Age	Vaccination Status	Guidance
Under 18 years of age	Unvaccinated, partially vaccinated, or fully vaccinated	Self-isolate at home for 5 days AND until your symptoms improve and you no longer have a fever. Avoid non-essential visits to higher risk settings like long-term care facilities and gatherings for another 5 days after ending isolation.
18 years of age or older	Fully vaccinated	
		NOT fully vaccinated

Close contacts, who are usually others in your household, do not need to self-isolate (regardless of vaccination status), but should closely self-monitor for symptoms. BCCDC has more information for [close contacts](#).



**If you find it hard to breathe, have chest pain, can't drink anything, feel very sick, and/or feel confused, contact your health care provider right away or go to your local emergency department or call 9-1-1.**

## Summary - What to Do When Sick:

### If you have symptoms of illness, stay home.

Most people don't need testing for COVID-19. Use BCCDC [Self-Assessment Tool](#), or connect with 8-1-1 or your health care provider to find out if a COVID-19 test is recommended.

#### Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever (above 38°C) or chills
- Cough
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Loss of appetite
- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Extreme fatigue or tiredness
- Headache
- Body aches
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea



**Go to an emergency department or call 9-1-1 if you:**

- Find it hard to breathe
- Have chest pain
- Can't drink anything
- Feel very sick
- Feel confused

**If you have MILD SYMPTOMS (or have tested negative) STAY HOME.**

For most people, testing is not recommended.

Mild symptoms can be **managed at home**.

**If you TEST POSITIVE: SELF ISOLATE**

1. **Complete an online form to report your test result**
2. **Manage your own symptoms**
3. **Let your household contacts know**

#### Return to School/Work

Stay home until you feel well enough to return to your regular activities.

#### If you are fully vaccinated OR less than 18 years of age

You can end isolation and return to school/work when all conditions are met:

1. *At least 5 days have passed since your symptoms started, or from test date if you did not have symptoms.*
2. *Fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication, such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen.*
3. *Symptoms have improved*

You should avoid non-essential visits to higher risk settings such as long-term care facilities and gatherings for another 5 days after ending isolation.

#### If you are 18 years of age or older AND NOT fully vaccinated

You can end isolation and return to school/work when all conditions are met:

1. *At least 10 days have passed since your symptoms started, or from test date if you did not have symptoms.*
2. *Fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication, such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen.*
3. *Symptoms have improved.*

#### If you still have symptoms

Continue to isolate longer if you still have a fever or are not feeling better. If you are unsure or concerned connect with your health care provider or call 8-1-1.

### What to do if someone is sick in your household:

You can continue to attend school if someone in your household is sick and/or self-isolating as long as you do not have any symptoms of illness and feel well. This includes if they have tested positive for COVID-19. Ensure you closely monitor yourself (or your child) for symptoms of illness and stay home if you feel unwell. The best way to protect yourself and your family from COVID-19 is to get vaccinated. Vaccines are available for anyone ages 5 and up. Register now at: [Getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca](https://getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca)