

HWDSB

My Child Has Displayed COVID-19 Symptoms, Now What?

At Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB), we adopted enhanced health protocols to ensure that we can keep students, staff, and families as safe as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic.

When a child displays COVID-19 symptoms – at school, or when their family does daily screening – it is important to stay calm and to understand next steps.

For an overview of this process, please review the attached flowchart *Symptomatic Student or Staff at Home/School Decision Guides* produced with Hamilton Public Health Services.

Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact Hamilton Public Health Services (905-974-9848, option 2) to book a test for their student.

How to get a COVID-19 test:

We encourage students and staff with symptoms to get a COVID-19 test. You must schedule testing at local Assessment and Testing Centres to decrease wait times, ensure an orderly flow and to protect patients and staff.

Book your appointment by calling Hamilton Public Health Services at 905-974-9848, option 2.

Assessment & Testing Centres in Hamilton

Dave Andreychuk Mountain Arena (Drive-Through COVID-19 Testing Centre)

25 Hester Street, Hamilton. Hours of Operation: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily

At your allotted appointment time drive around the rear of the building to the Zamboni entrance and wait for staff to signal you to drive inside the arena for testing. Booking an appointment ensures a fast and efficient process.

If you arrive at the testing centre without an appointment:

- Park your vehicle in the lot behind the testing centre near the Zamboni entrance.
- Walk to the open registration door and line up to register. Please ensure that you are wearing a mask, stay 6 feet apart, and have your health card with you.
- Return to your car, drive towards the Zamboni door and await staff to signal you inside to be tested.

East End Assessment Centre

2757 King Street East, Hamilton.

Hours of Operation: Monday to Friday 4 to 8 p.m. | Saturday & Sunday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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West End Assessment Centre

690 Main Street West, Hamilton

Hours of Operation: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily

Learn more about testing locations at www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus/assessment-centres

Any student suspected to have COVID-19 awaiting test results must be in isolation and cannot attend school in person. Students can do work from home if they feel well enough to participate. Their siblings may continue to attend school and continue monitoring for symptoms.

Please inform your school about your COVID-19 test result.

When can my child return to school?

- Students who **test negative** for COVID-19 must isolate until they do not have a fever (without using medication) and without symptoms for 24 hours. Household contacts should continue to monitor for symptoms.
- Students who **test positive** for COVID-19 must remain in isolation and follow Hamilton Public Health Service guidance and cannot attend school for at least 14 days. Household contacts should self-isolate at home and follow public health guidelines.
- Ill students **not tested** and given an **alternative diagnosis** by a health care provider, the individual is to isolate at home until without a fever (without the use of medication) and free of symptoms for at least 24 hours.
- Ill students, if **not tested**, must not return to school for 14 days from the start of symptoms and be without symptoms for at least 24 hours. Household contacts should monitor for symptoms.

How to continue learning, at home:

While your child is isolating at home, we want learning to continue. Please speak with your child's teacher or contact their school for learning materials and resources.

COVID-19 Symptoms

- Fever (Temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius/100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher)
- Chills
- Cough that's new or worsening (Continuous, more than usual, not related to other known causes or conditions for example, COPD)
- Barking cough, making a whistling noise when breathing (Croup, not related to other known causes or conditions)

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- Shortness of breath (Out of breath, unable to breathe deeply, not related to other known causes or conditions for example, asthma)
- Sore throat (Not related to other known causes or conditions for example, seasonal allergies, acid reflux)
- Difficulty swallowing (Painful swallowing, not related to other known causes or conditions)
- Runny nose (Not related to other known causes or conditions for example, seasonal allergies, being outside in cold weather)
- Stuffy or congested nose (Not related to other known causes or conditions for example, seasonal allergies)
- Decrease or loss of taste or smell (Not related to other known causes or conditions for example, allergies, neurological disorders)
- Pink eye (Conjunctivitis, not related to other known causes or conditions for example, reoccurring styes)
- Headache that's unusual or long lasting (Not related to other known causes or conditions (for example, tension-type headaches, chronic migraines)
- Digestive issues like nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain (Not related to other known causes or conditions for example, irritable bowel syndrome, anxiety in children, menstrual cramps)
- Muscle aches that are unusual or long lasting (Not related to other known causes or conditions for example, a sudden injury, fibromyalgia)
- Extreme tiredness that is unusual (Fatigue, lack of energy, not related to other known causes or conditions for example, depression, insomnia, thyroid dysfunction)
- Falling down often (For older people)
- Sluggishness or lack of appetite (For young children and infants)

Key Contacts and Resources

HWDSB Daily Student Screening Tool

www.hwdsb.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Student-COVID-Screening-Checklist.pdf

COVID-19 Resources at HWDSB

www.hwdsb.on.ca/covid19

Hamilton Public Health COVID-19 hotline

905-974-9848 or phscovid19@hamilton.ca. www.hamilton.ca/coronavirus

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HWDSB Social Workers

If you feel that your child could benefit from support, HWDSB social workers are available. Please speak with staff if this would be helpful.

HWDSB Helps app

Get help or share anonymous tips, using:

- Text to 905-963-0066. Standard rates apply.
- The HWDSB Helps app for iOS and Android.
- Web chat

In case of emergency, call 911.

If you have questions about next steps, please contact your school, your family doctor, or Public Health.