

Testing and Isolation Guidance for Schools

The Office of the Chief Public Health Officer (OCPHO) has made updates to the Isolation Order which went into effect on 14 February 2022.

Under the new Public Health Order, the only individuals who are required to isolate are:

- Those who have symptoms of COVID-19
- Those who are sharing accommodations with someone who has COVID-19 (household members)
- Those who have an active COVID-19 infection.

National data continues to show that children remain at low risk of severe symptoms of COVID-19. However, children are experiencing the impacts of school closures as it relates to social interactions and accessibility to other services that our schools provide.

The goal of this update is to continue to address COVID-19 transmission while minimizing disruption. You can view the updated Public Health Order [HERE](#).

What does this mean for JK-12?

This change means that students attending JK-12 will no longer need to isolate, regardless of their vaccination status when there is an exposure in a school or classroom. All staff and students must continue to wear masks while at school as directed by school, district, and ECE policies and guidelines.

If a staff member or student develops symptoms of COVID-19, they are required to isolate immediately and arrange for testing. Staff and students are still expected to use the [Daily Symptom Screening Tool for Students, School Staff and Early Childhood Care Workers](#). Public Testing and Isolation Instructions can be found [HERE](#)

The best defense against COVID-19 is to ensure you are immunized, staying home when you are sick or have symptoms, and practicing healthy habits such as wearing a mask.