

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

GOING BACK TO SCHOOL SAFELY



With COVID-19 cases rising and in-person classes resuming, it is important to keep schools safe. The Delta variant is now the dominant strain of COVID-19 in Ontario. It spreads more easily and faster than other strains of the virus, and it may cause some people to become sicker. Getting vaccinated and continuing to follow public health measures will help protect students, teachers and their families from the Delta variant. The COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective.

GET BOTH DOSES OF A COVID-19 VACCINE

- ▶ It is critically important that teachers and eligible students (born in 2009 or later) get two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine to protect themselves and those around them who cannot be vaccinated, including kids under 12. Both doses are needed for it to work best and to be fully vaccinated.



COVID-19 IN CHILDREN

- ▶ Although symptoms of COVID-19 in children are often mild, some become very sick. The virus can also spread very quickly. One student or teacher with COVID-19 can potentially spread the infection to many others, especially to those who are not vaccinated.



CONTINUE TO FOLLOW PUBLIC HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ Even if you are fully vaccinated, you must continue adhering to provincial public health guidelines. Your local public health unit might also have school-specific guidelines to follow, including a daily entrance questionnaire.
- ▶ **If you or your child have any symptom of COVID-19, get tested immediately and self-isolate until you get your results.**
- ▶ Wear a well-fitting mask when with people from outside your household, especially when indoors.
- ▶ Keep a distance of 2 metres from people outside your household.
- ▶ Wash or sanitize your hands regularly and practice good hygiene.
- ▶ Cover your coughs and sneezes with the bend of your arm or a tissue.
- ▶ Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects.



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