

# Student illness

## If a student has COVID-19 symptoms

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Students with symptoms must not attend school. If a child develops symptoms that could be caused by either COVID-19 or by a known pre-existing condition (e.g., allergies, chronic cough), the child should be tested for COVID-19 to confirm that it is not the source of their symptoms before returning to school.

Anyone that reports symptoms must stay home and seek health care advice as appropriate. Parents can call Health Link 811 or their primary health care practitioner, and fill out the [AHS Online Self-Assessment tool](#) to determine if their child should be tested.

Parents, household members, and contacts of a student who has symptoms but is not a COVID-19 case, are not required to quarantine.

Only the people identified as close contacts of an individual who is a case of COVID-19 need to quarantine. The contacts of the close contacts do not need to quarantine.

### Book a test

Book a testing appointment online with the AHS assessment tool or call Health Link 811. <https://myhealth.alberta.ca/Journey/COVID-19/Pages/COVID-Self-Assessment.aspx>

### Symptoms

You should get tested if you have any COVID-19 symptom.

If you have any of these symptoms you are [legally required to isolate for at least 10 days](#) from the start of your symptoms or until they resolve, whichever is longer:

- Fever
- Cough (new cough or worsening chronic cough)
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (new or worsening)
- Runny nose
- Sore throat

If you have any of these other symptoms, stay home and minimize your contact with others until your symptoms resolve:

- Chills
- Painful swallowing
- Stuffy nose
- Headache
- Muscle or joint aches
- Feeling unwell, fatigue or severe exhaustion
- Gastrointestinal symptoms (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or unexplained loss of appetite)
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Conjunctivitis, commonly known as pink eye

Monitor your child's health and call [Health Link 811](#) if you have questions or concerns. Call 911 immediately if experiencing severe symptoms of COVID-19, including difficulty breathing, severe chest pain, feelings of confusion or loss of consciousness.

## COVID-19 INFORMATION

### Isolation requirements

#### Albertans with symptoms

- You are legally required to isolate for a minimum of 10 days if you have a cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose, or sore throat that is not related to a pre-existing illness or health condition.
- The mandatory isolation period is 10 days from the start of symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer.

#### Tested positive for COVID-19

- You are legally required to isolate for a minimum of 10 days if you have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Isolation period is 10 days from the start of symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer.

#### Have symptoms but tested negative for COVID-19

- If you tested negative and have known exposure to COVID-19, you are legally required to quarantine for 14 days from the last date of your exposure.
- If you tested negative and have no known exposure to the virus, you are not legally required to isolate. However, it is important to stay home until your symptoms resolve so that you do not infect others.

#### Close contacts of confirmed cases

- You are legally required to quarantine for 14 days and monitor for symptoms if you are a close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19 (provides care, lives with or has close physical contact without appropriate use of personal protective equipment, or comes into direct contact with infectious body fluids).
- If you become sick with cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat during this time, you must isolate for an additional 10 days from the beginning of symptoms or until you are feeling well, whichever takes longer.

#### If you are self-isolating:

- Stay home — do not go to school, work, social events or any other public areas or community settings.
- Avoid close contact with other people, including household members but especially seniors and people with chronic conditions or compromised immune systems.
- Do not use public transportation or ride sharing.
- Do not go for walks in public places. This includes children in mandatory self-isolation.
- If you go outside, you must remain on private property not accessible by others.

#### If a student has symptoms related to allergies or a pre-existing medical condition

- The student should be tested at least once before returning to school and have a negative COVID-19 test result.
- These symptoms would be their baseline health status. As long as the cough or runny nose is always the same and does not get worse, the student can attend school.
- Talk to your school about your child's pre-existing medical condition so the school may keep a confidential record of this condition.

#### Note

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, information regarding COVID-19 will be updated as required. Please check online for the latest information and links to testing, symptoms and isolation requirements: [alberta.ca/covid19](https://alberta.ca/covid19)