



# York Catholic District School Board

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October 2, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Yesterday the Ontario government released an updated [COVID-19 screening guidance for schools](#) and child care centres. This was done in consultation with the Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health and provides additional information about symptoms to help parents make decisions about whether or not their children should attend school or child care.

The York Catholic District School Board has revised its protocols to align with this new provincial guidance and will use this to determine when students who present with symptoms will need to be sent home from school and what actions will need to be taken by the parents.

The updated screening guidance contains two sets of questions about symptoms, and information on when to consult a health care provider or get tested for COVID-19.

The **first set of questions asks about symptoms such as fever or cough**. Students and children with any of these symptoms are still advised to stay home until they are able to consult with a health care provider and receive an alternative diagnosis or a negative COVID-19 test.

The **second set of questions asks about other symptoms that are commonly associated with other illnesses**, such as a runny nose or headache:

- Students and children with only one of these symptoms will be advised to stay home for 24 hours, after which they can return to school or child care if their symptoms are improving.
- Students and children with two or more of these symptoms will be advised to stay home until they are able to consult with a health care provider and receive an alternative diagnosis or a negative COVID-19 test.

In addition, based on the latest public health guidance the symptom list for children in school and child care no longer includes abdominal pain or conjunctivitis (pink eye).

The new Ontario screening guidance and screening tool can be found at [COVID-19 Screening Tool for Children in School and Child Care](#) on the provincial government website.

Yours in Catholic Education,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mary Battista'.

Mary Battista  
Interim Director