

UPDATE re: Covid 19 from Public Health

In recent weeks, the Department of Public Health has reported a significant increase of COVID-19 cases not only in our community and province. Earlier today, Hamilton Public Health Services (HPS) issued new public health guidance amid concerns about the Omicron variant.

New public health guidance for suspected cases of the Omicron Variant of Concern

Please be advised that additional precautions have been implemented by Hamilton Public Health Services in cases where the Omicron variant is confirmed or suspected. These additional precautions require that close contacts self-isolate for 10 days regardless of vaccination status. Students of a confirmed Omicron case must also complete a Day 7 COVID-19 PCR test to be released from isolation on Day 10. If a student is not fully vaccinated, household members who are also not fully vaccinated must isolate until the child receives a negative COVID-19 PCR test result.

COVID School and Child Care Screening Tool

In order to provide further clarification around isolation requirements, the [COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#) will be updated to include a question regarding household members who tested positive on a rapid antigen test. When an individual tests positive on a rapid antigen test, any household members who are not fully vaccinated are also required to stay home while the individual seeks a confirmatory PCR test.

In-school screening validation

Please be reminded that effective January 3, 2022 students (K-Grade 12) will be required to provide confirmation that they have taken and passed the daily [COVID-19 school screening](#) upon arrival at school. Screening verification will be in effect for the first two weeks of school.

For further information, please go to <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/>