

Excellent care, for everyone,  
everywhere, every time.



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22 September 2020

Dear Parents, Staff, and Students of School Districts 68, 69, and 70 –

Please find attached the updated COVID-19 Daily Health Check guidance, extracted from the COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings ([bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID\\_public\\_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf](https://bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf)) prepared by the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC).

The updates are intended to ensure children have the important opportunity they need to be in the school environment as much as possible, while also minimizing the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

What we have learned about COVID-19, both here in BC and around the world, is that the presence of some individual symptoms by themselves are not indicative of COVID-19 in a child.

Research here and in other Canadian jurisdictions has shown that combined symptoms such as a fever and cough are much more likely to be associated with something that may be transmissible to others, like COVID-19. However, evidence has shown that the presence of certain mild symptoms in children by themselves, like runny nose, are typically not associated with COVID-19. For example, a runny nose or a sore throat with no other symptoms is not necessarily a reason for a child to stay home from school.

In addition to screening for symptoms, families should consider other factors before sending a child to school – including whether there are additional household members with symptoms.

Please continue to check [islandhealth.ca/covid19](https://islandhealth.ca/covid19) and the BCCDC COVID-19 & Schools webpage ([bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/childcare-schools/schools](https://bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/childcare-schools/schools)) for the latest guidance and information.

Many thanks to all for your continued vigilance, understanding, and collaboration as we continue with Stage 2 of the K-12 restart.

Sincerely,



Mike Benusic, MD MPH CCFP  
Medical Health Officer, Island Health  
Central Island (Nanaimo, Oceanside, Alberni-Clayoquot)

## Appendix C: Daily Health Check Example

The following is an example of a daily health check to determine if you should attend school that day.

| Daily Health Check          |   |            |    |
|-----------------------------|---|------------|----|
| 1. Key Symptoms of Illness* | Do you have any of the following new key symptoms?                  | CIRCLE ONE |    |
|                             | Fever   | YES        | NO |
|                             | Chills  | YES        | NO |
|                             | Cough or worsening of chronic cough                                 | YES        | NO |
|                             | Shortness of breath   | YES        | NO |
|                             | Loss of sense of smell or taste                                     | YES        | NO |
|                             | Diarrhea  | YES        | NO |
|                             | Nausea and vomiting   | YES        | NO |
| 2. International Travel     | Have you returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?   | YES        | NO |
| 3. Confirmed Contact        | Are you a confirmed contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19? | YES        | NO |

If you answered “YES” to one of the questions included under ‘Key Symptoms of Illness’ (excluding fever), you should stay home for 24 hours from when the symptom started. If the symptom improves, you may return to school when you feel well enough. If the symptom persists or worsens, seek a health assessment.

If you answered “YES” to two or more of the questions included under ‘Symptoms of Illness’ or you have a fever, seek a health assessment. A health assessment includes calling 8-1-1, or a primary care provider like a physician or nurse practitioner. If a health assessment is required, you should not return to school until COVID-19 has been excluded and your symptoms have improved.

When a **COVID-19 test** is recommended by the health assessment:

- If the COVID-19 test is **positive**, you should stay home until you are told by public health to end self-isolation. In most cases this is 10 days after the onset of symptoms. Public health will contact everyone with a positive test.
- If the COVID-19 test is **negative**, you can return to school once symptoms have improved and you feel well enough. Symptoms of common respiratory illnesses can persist for a week or more. Re-testing is not needed unless you develop a new illness.
- If a COVID-19 **test is recommended but is not done** because you choose not to have the test, or you do not seek a health assessment when recommended, and your symptoms are not related to a previously diagnosed health condition, you should stay home from school until 10 days after the onset of symptoms, and then you may return if you are feeling well enough.

If a COVID-19 test is not recommended by the health assessment, you can return to school when symptoms improve and you feel well enough. Testing may not be recommended if the assessment determines that the symptoms are due to another cause (i.e. not COVID-19).

If you answered “YES” to questions 2 or 3, use the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) to determine if you should seek testing for COVID-19.

**A health-care provider note (i.e. a doctor’s note) should not be required to confirm the health status of any individual.**

