

## **P/T Approaches to Reopening Schools K-12 – Surveillance, Outbreak Response & Management**

### **Summary:**

#### Definition of an outbreak:

- AB, SK and ON define an outbreak as two or more confirmed cases (staff and/or student) within a 14 day period OR two or more confirmed cases (staff/child) that are epidemiologically linked.

#### Testing:

- All P/Ts recommend daily symptom screening of students and staff.
- BC, AB, SK, QC, and NL recommend testing for anyone with symptoms, including mild.
- MB, ON, NB, and PEI recommend testing following an assessment (either by a self-assessment tool or by public health).
- SK is offering priority access to testing for teachers and school staff before and during the school year. Throughout the school year, voluntary testing will be made available with parental consent. Work is underway to align voluntary COVID-19 testing with routine school immunizations for students in grade six and grade eight.

#### Allergies and other pre-existing conditions:

- BC recommends watching for a change in symptoms.
- AB recommends initial testing to confirm that COVID-19 is not the source of their symptoms and then considering these symptoms as part of the student's baseline health.
- SK recommends staff should exercise judgment based on the symptoms, but when in doubt, err on the side of caution by not allowing the child to enter school.

<b>BC</b>	<p>Plan: <a href="#">Plan to safely bring K-12 students back to class full time</a></p> <p>Guidance: <a href="#">COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings</a></p> <p>Outbreak protocol: Pending publication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents and caregivers must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. If a child has any symptoms, they must not go to school. The same applies staff or any adults entering the school.</li> <li>• Students and staff with cold, influenza, or COVID-19 like symptoms should stay home, self-isolate, and be assessed by a health-care provider.</li> <li>• Testing is recommended for anyone with these symptoms, even mild ones.</li> <li>• Students or staff may still attend school if a member of their household has a cold, influenza, or COVID-19-like symptoms, provided the student/staff is asymptomatic.</li> <li>• Students and staff who experience seasonal allergies or other COVID-19-like symptoms, which are related to an existing condition can continue to attend school when they are experiencing these symptoms as normal. If they experience any change in symptoms they should seek assessment by a health-care provider.</li> <li>• Self-isolation is also advised for those who are considered a close contact of a confirmed case. Public health staff identify and notify close contacts of a confirmed case.</li> </ul>
<b>AB</b>	<p>Plan: <a href="#">2020-2021 School Re-entry Plan</a></p> <p>Guidance: <a href="#">K to 12 school re-entry</a></p> <p>Outbreak protocol: <a href="#">A resource guide for schools before, during, and after a COVID-19 outbreak</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents/guardians must screen their student daily for symptoms and prompt testing for symptomatic individuals. Staff, visitors and volunteers must also self-screen each day before entering the school.</li> <li>• Students/children and staff must not enter the school if they have symptoms of COVID-19.</li> <li>• Any individual with symptoms of COVID-19 should be tested as soon as possible.</li> <li>• Some individuals with pre-existing conditions may experience COVID-19-like symptoms as part of their normal baseline health or their known pre-existing condition. Schools must keep records of a student's known pre-existing conditions. If a student develops symptoms that could be caused by COVID-19 or by a known pre-existing condition (e.g. allergies), the student should be tested for COVID-19 at least once to confirm that it is not the source of their symptoms before entering or returning to the school. This will be considered the student's baseline health.</li> <li>• A COVID-19 alert in a school setting is defined as one confirmed case of COVID-19 in either a student or staff member in</li> </ul>

	<p>the school setting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A COVID-19 outbreak within a school setting is defined as “two or more confirmed cases (staff and/or student) within a 14 day period OR two or more confirmed cases (staff/child) that are epidemiologically linked.”</li> <li>• When a school outbreak reaches five confirmed cases in the school, the outbreak will be listed on the publicly-available website.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SK</b></p>	<p>Plan: <a href="#">Safe School Plan</a></p> <p>Guidance: <a href="#">Education Institution Guidelines</a>; <a href="#">Safe Schools Plan Parent Packages</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students should never go to school if they are sick or if anyone living in the home has tested positive.</li> <li>• Teachers and school staff now have priority access to testing, before and during the school year. Teachers and school staff wishing to be tested in advance of the start of the school year are encouraged to call 811 for a referral for testing as soon as possible.</li> <li>• Work is underway to align voluntary COVID-19 testing with routine school immunizations for students in grade six and grade eight.</li> <li>• Throughout the school year, voluntary testing will be made available with parental consent.</li> <li>• If two individuals within a school test positive for COVID-19, an outbreak is declared for that school.</li> <li>• If there is a second positive case confirmed in one classroom, the class will receive alternate instruction (non-classroom) arrangements for 14 days.</li> <li>• Schools or a section of schools will receive alternate instruction (non-classroom) arrangements when: There are two or more positive COVID-19 cases in more than one classroom, and there are regularly shared common areas and amenities (entrances, washrooms, buses); and public health cannot establish transmission links between those cases through the contact tracing investigation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>MB</b></p>	<p>Plan: <a href="#">Welcoming Our Students Back: Restoring Safe School</a></p> <p>Guidance: <a href="#">Guidelines for September 2020</a>; <a href="#">A Guide for Parents, Caregivers and Students</a></p> <p>Outbreak protocol: <a href="#">COVID-19 K–12 School Settings Practice Guidance and Protocols</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents should screen their child for symptoms every morning; staff must self-monitor daily.</li> <li>• Routine screening or monitoring of temperatures with a thermometer or other device to assess for fever is not recommended.</li> <li>• If any student or adult has COVID-19 or flu related symptoms, they need to remain at home.</li> <li>• Parents should use the Self-Assessment tool to check if their child should be tested for COVID-19.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signage, with exclusion criteria, must be posted at all entrances to the school. A student or staff member who meets any of the exclusion criteria will not be admitted to the school.</li> <li>• Those with symptoms should be tested. If the test is negative for COVID-19, they can return 24 hours after symptoms resolve.</li> <li>• A chronic stable cough, sneeze, runny nose or nasal congestion that is unchanged and clearly linked to a known medical condition such as asthma or allergies, is not an absolute requirement for exclusion. Staff should exercise judgment based on the symptoms, but when in doubt, err on the side of caution by excluding the child.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ON</b></p>	<p>Plan: <a href="#">COVID-19: reopening schools</a></p> <p>Guidance: <a href="#">Guide to reopening Ontario's schools</a></p> <p>Outbreak protocol: <a href="#">Operational guidance: COVID-19 management in schools</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An outbreak in a school is defined as two or more lab-confirmed COVID-19 cases in students and/or staff in a school with an epidemiological link, within a 14-day period, where at least one case could have reasonably acquired their infection in the school.</li> <li>• Classroom cohorts (students and staff affiliated with the cohort) will generally be considered at high risk of exposure. All students and staff determined to be at high risk of exposure will be directed to isolate and recommended to be tested (voluntary testing) within their isolation period. Negative test results do not change the requirement for isolation nor do they shorten the isolation period for close contacts.</li> <li>• Parents must screen their child for symptoms every day before they come to school.</li> <li>• Symptoms include runny nose, or nasal congestion (in absence of underlying reasons for these symptoms such as seasonal allergies, post nasal drip, etc.).</li> </ul>

<p><b>QC</b></p>	<p>Plan: <a href="#">Back-to-school plan for the Fall of 2020 (COVID-19)</a></p> <p>Guidance: <a href="#">COVID-19 procedure to follow in educational institutions</a></p> <p>Outbreak protocol: <a href="#">Emergency protocol/ reconfinement plan</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a child is showing one or more symptoms that justify being kept at home, it is strongly suggested that the child be tested.</li> <li>• It is recommended that children who show mild flu-like symptoms be kept at home and avoid contact with others. After 24 hours, the situation can be re-evaluated based on the evolution of symptoms.</li> <li>• If a student tests positive, anyone considered to be at moderate to high risk will be contacted by the regional public health authorities and will be removed from the school and tested.</li> <li>• Anyone considered to be at low risk may continue to attend school and monitor their symptoms over a period of 14 days.</li> <li>• Screening (testing of individuals without symptoms) may take place in certain schools in order to determine the general situation regarding the transmission of COVID-19, or in response to a local outbreak.</li> </ul>
<p><b>NB</b></p>	<p>Plan and guidance, including outbreak management protocol: <a href="#">Return to School: Guide for Parents and the Public</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents must screen their child daily before school.</li> <li>• Parents should call 811 or their primary healthcare provider to arrange testing if symptoms occur.</li> <li>• Public Health will, through contact tracing and risk management, make decisions on who self-isolates. This may require an individual or several individuals, a classroom or multiple classrooms or even a school population to self-isolate.</li> <li>• No guidance identified for dealing with mild symptoms or allergies.</li> </ul>
<p><b>NS</b></p>	<p>Plan and guidance: <a href="#">Nova Scotia's Back to School Plan:</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students and staff will be required to self-screen for possible COVID-19 symptoms before coming to school, and those who feel ill during the day will go home.</li> <li>• No guidance identified for testing or dealing with mild symptoms or allergies.</li> </ul>
<p><b>PE</b></p>	<p>Plan: <a href="#">Welcome Back to School Plan</a></p> <p>Guidance: <a href="#">2020 Return to School Guidelines</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For staff/ students/parents/visitors who display symptoms, they are to call 811 to arrange testing and remain home until results are confirmed.</li> <li>• Parents/guardians will report any symptoms of COVID-19 to the school. Students will remain home until they are free of</li> </ul>

	<p>symptoms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any visitors to the school will be required to sign in each day, including a declaration indicating that they are entering the school visitor zone free of COVID-19 symptoms.</li> <li>No guidance identified dealing with mild symptoms or allergies.</li> </ul>
<b>NL</b>	<p>Plans: <a href="#">Newfoundland and Labrador K-12 Education Re-entry Plan</a>; <a href="#">Newfoundland and Labrador English School District – A Safe Return to School Plan</a></p> <p>Guidance: <a href="#">Newfoundland and Labrador Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Testing of anyone with cold, influenza or COVID-19 like symptoms, even mild ones, helps identify cases early in the course of their disease.</li> <li>Students and staff with cold, influenza, or COVID-19 like symptoms should stay home, self-isolate, and complete the online COVID-19 self-assessment or contact 811, or be assessed by a health care provider.</li> <li>Testing is recommended for anyone with these symptoms, even mild ones.</li> <li>Daily screening is recommended for staff and students</li> </ul>
<b>NU</b>	<p>Plan and guidance: <a href="#">2020-21 Opening Plan for Nunavut Schools: Health and Safety</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If there is an escalated transmission in the region, identified contacts within the school community will have to stay home and isolate for 14 days.</li> </ul>
<b>NT</b>	<p>Plan: <a href="#">Reopening Schools Safely: Planning for the 2020-2021 School Year</a></p> <p>Guidance: <a href="#">Child Care, School and Learning</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents will be asked to monitor their children daily for symptoms and not send them to school if they are sick.</li> <li>A screening process will be developed and people who are sick will not be allowed in school. If students become sick at school, they will be quickly isolated, parents will be contacted and the student will be sent home.</li> <li>Should there be a case of COVID-19 in the school, parents should be prepared for their child(ren) to be sent home quickly and for contact tracing to be done before schools can reopen. Should a child develop symptoms at school, they will be isolated safely and parents will be contacted to pick them up. If a number of school staff are impacted by COVID-19, school closure may become necessary.</li> </ul>

SAC Secretariat, September 3, 2020

YT	<p>Plan: <a href="#">Planning for the 2020–21 school year</a></p> <p>Guidance: <a href="#">Health and safety guidance for K–12 school settings</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students and staff must stay home when they are sick or showing symptoms. Parents and caregivers must monitor students for symptoms and keep their child at home if they are sick or showing symptoms.</li></ul>
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