

### **Students Sickness Procedure**

Below is the procedure for working with students screening and those who may become unwell during school time. It is important to note that confidentiality be respected as much as possible in this event. Below are updated as outlined in the August 13 provincial document:

#### **Screening:**

Symptom screening must occur at the start of each day. Parents and caregivers are responsible for ensuring their children are not displaying symptoms before sending them to school or on the bus. Staff are responsible for self-screening. School staff will be screening students at school. Screening for symptoms is critical to identify any potential cases of COVID-19 as quickly as possible before exposure to others. Attached is the [screening tool](#) for parents and students to use that will also be available at your child's school.

If someone is unsure whether they or their child should be tested and self-isolate, they should be directed to the COVID-19 Screening Tool at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>. All screening that identifies suspected cases of COVID-19 should be referred to Health Links at 204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257. A student or staff member who meets any of the exclusion criteria will not be admitted to the school and will be advised to immediately isolate and consult Health Links or their health care provider. Those with symptoms should be tested. If the test is negative for COVID-19, they can return 24 hours after symptoms resolve. If individuals do not get tested, they should isolate for 14 days from symptom onset, and they may return if symptoms have resolved at that time.

Symptoms of illness that are not consistent with COVID-19 should continue to be managed per existing policies. 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. As well, children who are crying can exhibit a runny nose. Changing or worsening of chronic symptoms require isolation and contacting Health Links. Staff should exercise judgment based on the symptoms but, when in doubt, error on the side of caution by excluding the child and advising the parent/caregiver to contact Health Links or their health care provider. Parents need to understand that sometimes students will be sent home out of caution.

#### **What happens if a Child Exhibits Symptoms?**

If a child develops symptoms while at school, the child should be isolated in a separate room. If a separate room is not immediately available, the child needs to be kept at least 2 metres or 6 feet away from other children and staff. A medical mask will be provided to be worn by the sick student unless there are safety issues that prevent the student from wearing a mask.

The parent should be notified to come and pick up the child immediately. Parents or caregivers must pick up their child as soon as possible if they are notified their child is ill.

Ask the parent or guardian to contact Health Links (204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257) or the child's health care provider for direction, if required.

If the child is young and requires close contact and care while isolated, caregivers can continue to care for the child until the parent is able to pick up the child. Caregivers should be mindful of hand hygiene and avoid contact

with the respiratory secretions of the child. A medical mask should be worn by the staff person caring for the child.

If a parent/caregiver is unreachable to pick up a sick child, school staff should keep the child isolated in a separate room until the parent or caregiver arrives. If a parent continues to be unreachable the emergency contact will be called. If neither contacts can be reached by the end of the day, the school leader or designate with another staff members will explore emergency transportation options including walking the child home, or other divisional transportation. **It is extremely important that parents are available at all times of the school day to be contacted.** If a school continues to have concerns with reaching a family over an extended period, alternate plans will have to be looked at including possible social services. If the medical condition requires urgent assessment, or if the parent cannot be located, they should contact health links or the local hospital. Anyone in close contact with the child while waiting should wear personal protective equipment, including a medical mask. Once the student is picked up, the staff member should practise diligent hand hygiene.

Additional environmental cleaning will be required. Focus should be on high-touch areas and areas where the child spent time. All items (e.g., bedding and toys) used by the child while isolated should be cleaned and disinfected as soon as the child has been picked up.

A sick child can return to the school once it has been determined that it is safe to do so by their health care provider or Public Health. It is our understanding from Public Health the current procedure would be that if health links say the child should have a Covid-19 test, then the child would only return to the school after having the results negative, and also being symptom free for 24 hours or after 14 day self-isolation and no symptoms. It is also our understanding from Public Health that currently siblings of the same household if not symptomatic can still continue to come to school. Parents are asked to please communicate with school administration.

### **Contact Tracing and Outbreak Management**

In regards to what to do when someone tests positive, SVSD will follow the provincial government document released on August 31.

[Covid Response Plan K-12](#)

[Covid Response Management Chart](#)



## SYMPTOMS OF novel coronavirus (COVID-19), a cold and the flu



SYMPTOMS	COVID-19 Symptoms range from mild to severe	COLD Gradual onset of symptoms	FLU Abrupt onset of symptoms
 Fever	Common	Rare	Common
 Cough	Common	Common	Common
 Sore throat	Sometimes	Common	Common
 Shortness of breath	Sometimes	No	No
 Fatigue	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common
 Aches and pains	Sometimes	No	Common
 Headaches	Sometimes	Common	Common
 Runny or stuffy nose	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
 Diarrhea	Rare	No	Sometimes <small>especially for children</small>
 Sneezing	No	Common	No