



**Interior Health**  
Every person matters

Dear Parent

Your child has been sent home from school due to developing illness symptoms. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that key COVID-19 symptoms include fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, loss of sense of smell or taste, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

If your child's symptoms are similar to those from a previously diagnosed health condition and it is not unusual for your child, they may return to school. No assessment or doctor's note is required from a health care provider.

For mild symptoms ***without fever***, students should remain home for 24 hours from when symptoms started. If symptoms improve, they can return to school without further assessment.

For symptoms that ***include fever*** or for symptoms that continue after 24 hours or worsen, a health assessment is required. A health assessment includes calling 8-1-1, your child's primary care provider (like a physician or nurse practitioner) or the nearest [Interior Health COVID – 19 Testing and Assessment Centre](#).

In some cases, a COVID-19 test may be required. **When a COVID-19 test is required** during a health assessment:

- If the COVID-19 test is **positive**, the students should stay home for 10 days after the start of symptoms. Public health will contact everyone with a positive test.
- If the COVID-19 test is **negative**, students can return to school once symptoms have improved and they feel well enough. Symptoms of common respiratory illnesses can persist for a week or more. Re-testing is not needed unless students develop a new illness.
- If a COVID-19 **test is recommended but is not done**, the student should stay home from school until at least 10 days have passed after the start of symptoms.

If a **COVID-19 test is not required** during the health assessment, students can return to school when symptoms have improved and they 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).

Information about COVID-19 is changing and evolving as we learn more about the illness. More information can be found on the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) website <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/childcare-schools/schools>.