



Trillium Bilingual Montessori
Covid-19 Sickness/Symptoms Protocol
January 17 2022

Current Covid Situation

On January 13, 2022, childcare center Covid-19 policies were updated by the Ministry of Education, following an update from the Region of Waterloo Public Health on January 11 2022 and an initial announcement from MOE on December 30 regarding the new Omicron variant.

“On Dec 30, 2021 the province made some significant changes to testing guidance and case and contact management with the Omicron variant. The province has suspended reporting of COVID-19 cases in child care settings and there is no longer a requirement to report children or staff with symptoms or positive Rapid Antigen Tests or PCR results.”

Symptomatic Rapid Antigen Testing

Starting this week, TBM has been supplied with Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) for symptomatic children and staff. If a child or staff become symptomatic during programing, they will be sent home with 2 RAT in a small baggie with included instruction on how to administer the tests. RAT test results do not need to be reported to TBM or Public Health.

Testing Instruction:

- ⇒ **Test #1** should be done on the day they are sent home.
- ⇒ Regardless of results, **test #2 must be administer between 24-48 hours later.**
- ⇒ As per the [COVID-19: Interim Guidance for Schools and Child Care: Omicron Surge Guidance](#) , if two consecutive rapid antigen tests, separated by 24-48 hours, are both negative, the symptomatic individual is less likely to have COVID-19 infection, and the individual should isolate until symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours (or 48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms are present).

*******Updated Guidance on RAT**

- Children, staff, and providers will be required to actively screen each day, regardless of access to testing and to isolate if symptomatic, regardless of vaccination status and/or test access.
- The two rapid antigen tests provided are to be used when individuals are symptomatic.
- Tests for children should be sent home with families to complete testing at home.
- As per the [COVID-19: Interim Guidance for Schools and Child Care: Omicron Surge Guidance](#) , if two consecutive rapid antigen tests, separated by 24-48 hours, are both negative, the symptomatic individual is less likely to have COVID-19 infection, and the individual should isolate until symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours (or 48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms are present).
- RATs (contingent on provincial testing supply), may be used when a child/student or staff member is exhibiting the following symptoms:
 - Fever and/or chills
OR
 - Cough
OR
 - Shortness of breath
OR
 - Decrease or loss of taste or smell
OR

Two or more of:

- Runny nose/nasal congestion
 - Headache
 - Extreme fatigue
 - Sore throat
 - Muscle aches/joint pain
 - Gastrointestinal symptoms (i.e. vomiting or diarrhea)
- The use of take-home self-collection kits will only be used if the child or staff develops symptoms while in programing from the list of RAT symptoms above.
 - RAT self-collection kits will not be provided to individuals experiencing single symptoms that only require isolation until the symptom is improving for 24-48 hours (e.g., runny nose)
 - While awaiting the results of RAT COVID-19 test, or if testing kits are not available, the individual and their household members, regardless of vaccination status, must remain at home and isolate as per the instructions on Online Screening Tool.
 - The individual is presumed to have COVID-19 based on their symptoms and should isolate as per the Online Screening Tool criteria for those who test positive on a RAT or PCR test.
 - **The number of Omicron cases is rising rapidly in Ontario such that individuals with symptoms indicative of COVID-19 can be presumed to be infected with COVID-19.**

Positive RAT Covid-19 Test

- A positive RAT is highly indicative that the individual has COVID-19.
- A positive RAT does NOT need to be confirmed with a PCR test.
- Positive RAT do NOT need to be reported to the public health unit or child care.

Note: There is no requirement for parent(s)/guardian(s) to report their child's PCR/RAT results to the child care as part of absence reporting, however, TBM would appreciate to be notified in order to ensure the proper isolation periods are followed.

Negative COVID-19 Test

PCR

- Individuals who test negative on a PCR test must stay home until their symptom(s) have been improving for 24 hours (48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms are present).

RAT

- If two consecutive RATs, separated by 24-48 hours, are both negative, the symptomatic individual is less likely to have COVID-19 infection, and the individual should isolate until symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours (or 48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms are present).

Positive Case Reporting

According to MOE, a positive Covid-19 case is one that is confirmed with a PCR test. All positive cases must be reported to MOE and parents will be notified of confirmed cases. *However, MOE and PH are no longer closing cohorts or dismissing close contact children.*

Absenteeism Rate

The MOE and PH have implemented a mandated reporting of absenteeism rate greater than 30%.

- ⇒ The numbers will include a combination of children and staff
- ⇒ The absenteeism rate includes sick, isolating individuals AS WELL AS anyone away for appointments, day off or if the child is kept home by choice (not sick).
- ⇒ The total percentage will not distinguish between illness, covid or anyone away for any other reason.

⇒ Once the center has an absenteeism rate of 30% or more, we will be required to advise PH. From there, PH will notify TBM what the next steps are. Options such as:

- Notifying parents via a PH letter
- Notifying parents via TBM letter
- Mandatory closure imposed by PH
- Further investigation by PH

*As the time of the publication, no date has been announced by MOE or PH for the start of the reporting. TBM is awaiting further instruction on when/how the reporting will be implemented.

TBM Symptom Monitoring

In accordance with the MOE online screening tool, TBM will be monitoring the symptoms below. Children exhibiting any of the symptoms will be sent home with RAT.

Monitored Symptoms

- a. **Fever** (over 37.8C for at least 30 minutes between 2 readings)
- b. **Cough** (croup or barking, loud, non-stop)
- c. **Difficulty Breathing, Shortness of Breath** (not caused by asthma or allergies)
- d. **Loss of Taste and/or Smell** (not caused by allergies or other chronic conditions) *only if the child is old enough to talk and tell the adults.
- e. **Runny nose** (non-stop, clear mucus discharge, sneezing and blowing nose excessively, etc. Not caused by cold weather or crying)
- f. **Diarrhea/Vomiting/Nausea** (all digestive symptoms are considered as one symptom and child can return 24 hours after last episode, regardless of RAT results)
- g. **Extreme tiredness** (can't stay awake, fall asleep sitting, etc.)

Non-Monitored Symptoms (due to inability to monitor or diagnose easily in children)

- h. **Sore Throat** (Extremely difficult to swallow, hurts to eat/drink, feels like strep throat, etc.)
- i. **Muscle Aches/Joint Pain** (hurts to move your body, all your body aches, sore to the touch, etc.)
- j. **Headache** (constant headache, pressure or sinus headache that lasts more than 1 hour or does not completely go away with Tylenol/Advil/Aleve/Etc. or returns once the medication stops working)

**if the child is old enough to talk and express their pain, symptoms should be considered.*

PCR Test

Test done at a testing center or pharmacy and the person must fall in a targeted category to get tested. As of today, childcare centers staff and children are not eligible for PCR testing. The MOE and the Ministry of Health are looking at adding children to PCR eligibility. Updates will be given as we receive them.

HEPA Filter Air Purifiers

TBM has purchased units for each classroom and all shared spaces. If/when we receive additional units from the MOE they will be added in the shared spaces as needed. Our HVAC units also use high quality HEPA filters.

N95 Masks for Staff

TBM has purchased a supply of masks for the staff. On Friday last week, we received our first shipment from the MOE that will last us a little over a week, with no indication as to when we will be receiving bigger shipments or when they will arrive.

Additional Resources

[Screening tool](#)

[Visual Copy of Screening Tool](#)

[COVID-19 Integrated Testing & Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Interim Guidance: Omicron Surge](#)

[COVID-19: Interim Guidance for Schools and Child Care: Omicron Surge](#)

You have symptoms and are concerned you may have COVID-19. Now what?

This guidance does not apply to individuals who live, work, volunteer or are admitted in a highest risk setting*

Do you have any of these symptoms: Fever/chills, cough, shortness of breath, decrease/loss of smell and taste?

No

Yes

Do you have two or more of these symptoms?:

- Sore throat
- Headache
- Extreme fatigue
- Runny nose/nasal congestion
- Muscle aches/joint pain
- GI Symptoms (i.e. vomiting or diarrhea)

No

Yes

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is less likely that you have COVID-19 infection. Self-isolate until your symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours (48 hours for gastrointestinal symptoms). Your household members do not need to self-isolate. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is highly likely that you have a COVID-19 infection. You must self-isolate immediately: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For at least 5 days from your symptom onset and until your symptoms have been improving for 24 hours (or 48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms) whichever is longer in duration if you are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 years of age or older AND fully vaccinated. 11 years old or younger, regardless of your vaccination status For 10 days from your symptom onset if you are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 years of age or older AND either partially vaccinated or unvaccinated. Immune compromised, regardless of your age All of your household members (regardless of their vaccination status) must self-isolate while you are self-isolating. Most individuals do not need a COVID-19 test. If you are in the eligible individual list, get PCR test, rapid molecular test or rapid antigen tests (if you have access). If testing is not available, you must fulfill the self-isolation. If your symptoms worsen, seek advice from Telehealth or your health care provider. Notify your workplace. |
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*Highest risk settings/individuals include hospitals, Long-Term Care, retirement homes, congregate living settings, and health care workers providing care to immunocompromised people.

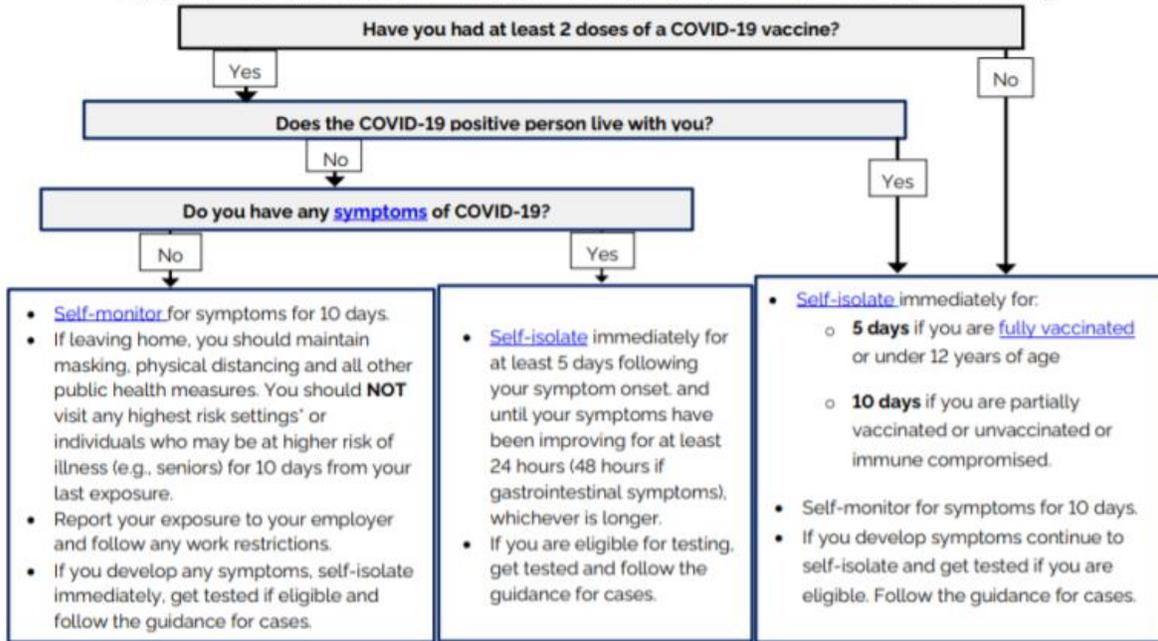
Note: In the context of Omicron, individuals who are previously positive in the last 90 days and not fully vaccinated are **not** considered equivalent to fully vaccinated.

This chart also applies if you have been exposed to someone with symptoms of COVID-19 without a confirmatory test.



You've been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 on PCR, rapid molecular, or rapid antigen test. Now what?

This guidance does not apply to individuals who live, work, volunteer or are admitted in a highest risk setting*



*Highest risk settings include hospitals, Long-Term Care, retirement homes, health care workers providing care to immunocompromised, congregate living settings
Note: In the context of Omicron, individuals who are previously positive in the last 90 days and not fully vaccinated are **not** considered equivalent to fully vaccinated.

Children Sent Home

When children are sent home, we will be sending an information sheet along with RAT kits. All instructions are on the sheet along with information on when they can return to the childcare center.



Trillium Bilingual Montessori Child Covid-19 Sickness/Symptoms Protocol

Your child is showing symptoms that have been associated with potential Covid-19 symptoms for children according to the Ministry of Education screening tool.

While in programing, your child has exhibited the following symptom(s) after an observation period:

- Fever and/or chills** -Temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius/100 degrees Fahrenheit. Temperature reading was done twice using an infrared thermometer, on the forehead.

1-Time: _____ Temperature: _____

2-Time: _____ Temperature: _____

- Cough or barking cough (croup)** - Continuous, more than usual, making a whistling noise when breathing (not related to asthma, post-infectious reactive airways, or other known causes or conditions they already have)
- Shortness of breath** - Out of breath, unable to breathe deeply (not related to asthma or other known causes or conditions they already have)
- Loss of smell and or taste** (*less common or hard to evaluate in children*)
- Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea** - Not related to irritable bowel syndrome, anxiety, menstrual cramps, or other known causes or conditions they already have
- Runny Nose/Congested Nose** -Not related to seasonal allergies, being outside in cold weather, or others known causes or conditions.
- Others: Extreme tiredness, sore throat, muscle aches/joint pain and headache** (*less common or hard to evaluate in children*)

Isolation/Staying Home

In accordance with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health your child is being sent home with RAT testing kits.

Testing Instruction:

- ⇒ **Test #1** should be done on the day they are sent home.
- ⇒ Regardless of results, **test #2 must be administer between 24-48 hours later.**
- ⇒ As per the [COVID-19: Interim Guidance for Schools and Child Care: Omicron Surge Guidance](#) , if two consecutive rapid antigen tests, separated by 24-48 hours, are both negative, the symptomatic individual is less likely to have COVID-19 infection, and the individual should isolate until symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours (**or 48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms are present**).
- ⇒ **Positive RAT Covid-19 Test**
 - A positive RAT is highly indicative that the individual has COVID-19.
 - A positive RAT does NOT need to be confirmed with a PCR test.
 - Positive RAT do NOT need to be reported to the public health unit or child care.

RAT are optional use, if you decide not to do the RAT tests, your child must isolate for a minimum of 5 days and the individual should isolate until symptoms are improving for at least 24 hours (or 48 hours if gastrointestinal symptoms are present).

Additional Information

- ⇒ To get more information on isolation requirements for the rest of the household, complete the screening questions. At the end, below your results (scroll all the way down), it will give you information isolation requirements.

⇒ To return to the childcare center, your child must pass the screening questions **COVID-19 screening tool students and children in school and childcare settings** <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

⇒ If you have any additional Covid questions, please contact Waterloo Region Public Health at 519-575-4400

⇒ **Children returned to childcare center while symptomatic will be sent home.**



for

COVID-19 screening
tool for students and
children in school and
childcare settings

Thank you for helping us keep children safe. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding.
