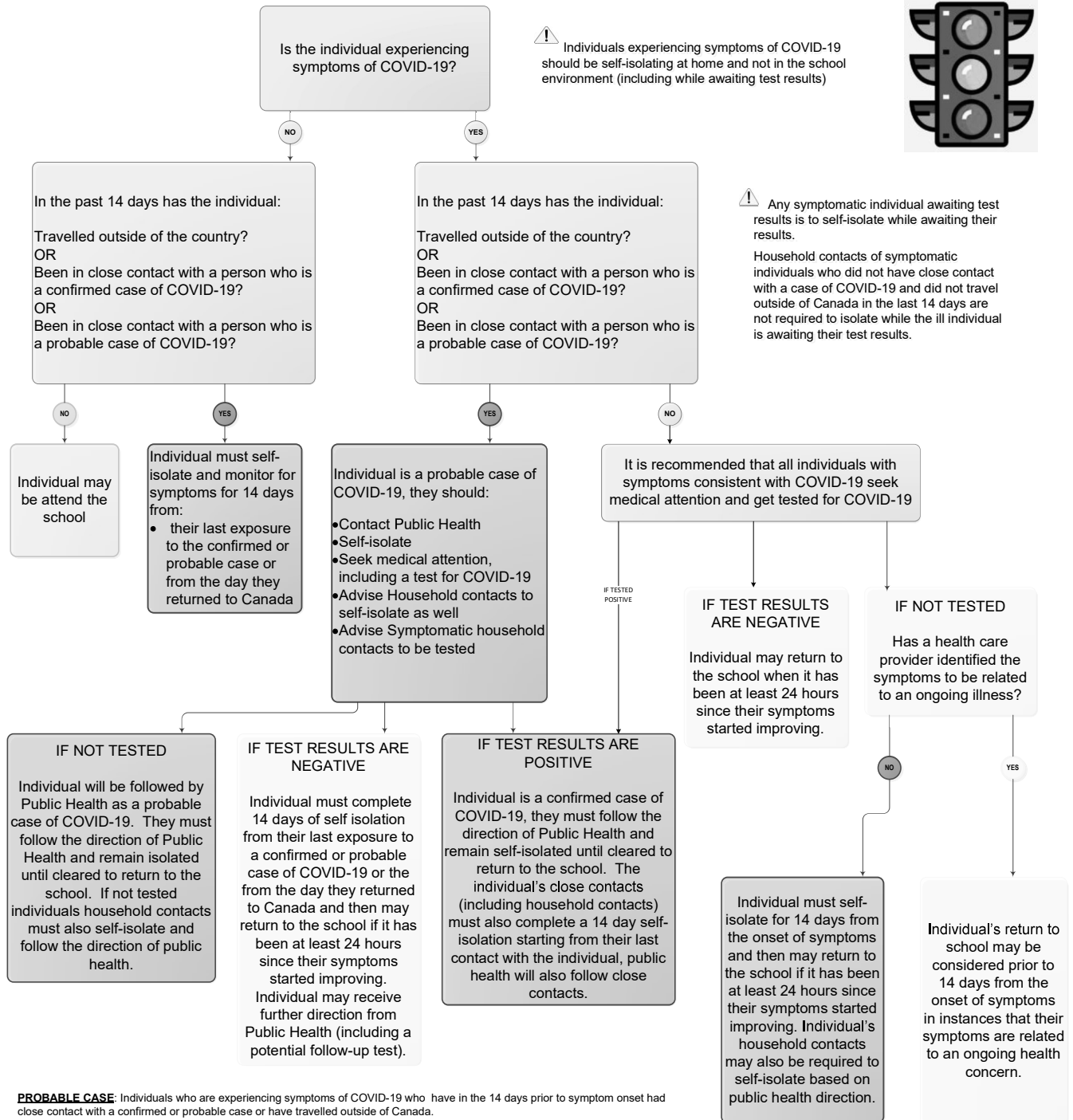
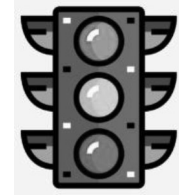


# PREVENTING COVID-19 EXPOSURES IN THE SCHOOLS

Preventing COVID-19 exposures in the school setting includes making sure people who may pose a risk do not enter a school. Use this resource to decide who should and should not be in a school.



**PROBABLE CASE:** Individuals who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 who have in the 14 days prior to symptom onset had close contact with a confirmed or probable case or have travelled outside of Canada.

**CLOSE CONTACT:** People who were within 2-meters of an individual for more than 10 minutes, who provide care to them or live in the same household, people they have had close physical contact with, such as shaking hands or who they have accidentally coughed, sneezed or spit on while talking to.

**SYMPTOMS HAVE IMPROVED:** The individuals symptoms are improved, however mild symptoms (e.g., cough and runny nose) are known to persist. Individual must be free of fever for at least 24 hrs and not experiencing any new or worsening symptoms.

# WHEN AN INDIVIDUAL BECOMES ILL WHILE AT THE SCHOOL

Follow these steps if an individual becomes ill with symptoms of COVID-19 while in the school or school related places (e.g., school bus).

## COVID-19 Symptoms

### Common symptoms

- Fever (a temperature of 37.8°C/100.0°F or greater)
- Cough (that is new or worsening)
- Shortness of breath

### Other symptoms may include

- Sore Throat
- Runny nose (Rhinorrhea)
- Nasal Congestion
- Decrease or loss of sense of taste or smell
- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Abdominal pain

Safely move individual to isolation room (ensure ill individual is masked and those providing assistance are using PPE)

Clean surfaces after individual has left the area.

**Note:** PPE in the school environment includes surgical/procedure mask and eye protection/face shield

Call parent/guardian to pick up ill child or advise ill staff/visitor to go home.

Direct individual to seek medical attention, including being tested for COVID-19.

Has the individual had a known exposure to a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19 or international travel in the 14 days prior to symptom onset, or does the school have additional concerns related to a potential COVID-19 infection with this individual?

**Note:** It is the responsibility of the individual or their parents/guardians to not attend the school if they have these risk factors, however it may become apparent during the interactions that these risk factors do apply.

NO

YES

Call Public Health to report the illness and the school exposure to the symptomatic individual.

### Individual are not permitted at the school while awaiting test results:

- If the test result is negative the individual may return to the school it is has been at least 24 hours since their symptoms started improving (no fever for at least 24 hours, mild symptoms may persist).

**or**

- If the test result is positive the individual is to self-isolate for at least 14 days from the day the symptoms started. Individual may return to the school after this period upon the guidance of York Region Public Health.

**or**

- If individual was not tested, they must self-isolate for 14 days from the day symptoms started. If individual's symptoms have been identified by a health care provider to be related to an ongoing health condition, their return to school may be considered based on circumstances.

**Note:** Siblings or other household contacts of symptomatic individuals with no known risk factors (close contact to a confirmed or probable case or recent travel) may attend the school unless symptomatic.

If the individual tests positive their siblings and other household contacts would then not be permitted at the school and required to self-isolate.

# SHOULD MY CHILD ATTEND SCHOOL?

COVID-19 is a viral illness caused by a coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2 and is spread through respiratory droplets when in close contact with someone who is infected. This virus can often cause a mild illness, with symptoms similar to that of the common cold can also cause more severe illness, with symptoms such as pneumonia (infection of the lungs).

## Common symptoms

- Fever (a temperature of 37.8°C/100.0°F or greater)
- Cough (that is new or worsening)
- Shortness of breath

## Other symptoms may include

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- Runny nose (Rhinorrhea)
- Nasal Congestion
- Decrease or loss of sense of taste or smell
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- Diarrhea
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Symptoms of COVID-19

It is recommended that any individual experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms seek medical attention and be tested for COVID-19.

Remember to screen your child for symptoms and risk factors every morning before school

Should my child go to school?

What actions should I take?

