

**TO:** Child Care Licensees  
Consolidated Municipal Service Managers and District Social  
Services Administration Boards (CMSMs and DSSABs)  
First Nations with Licensed Child Care Programs and Child and  
Family Programs

**FROM:** Phil Graham  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Early Years and Child Care Division

**DATE:** October 1, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Updates to the Ministry of Health School and Child Care  
Screening Tool

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We are deeply appreciative of your continued dedication and commitment in ensuring children are in a nurturing, supportive and safe environment. The purpose of this memo is to notify you of recent updates made to the [COVID-19 school and child care screening tool](#).

Key changes are focused on providing clarity to users and individuals, and do not represent significant policy changes. Updates to the screening tools include:

- **Symptoms** - Clarifying that staff, students and children should stay home from school and child care if they are unwell, even if they do not have symptoms that are most commonly associated with COVID-19, and monitor before returning to school.
- **Testing** - Clarifying that rapid antigen tests are not for use on individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 or on high-risk close contacts.
- **Vaccination and Immunization Status** – Revisions were made to the structure of the vaccination status and COVID-19 case history question to clarify that the individual could be both vaccinated or had previously tested positive within the last 90 days.
- **Personal Health Information and Immunization Status** - Clarifying that the purpose of asking if an individual is fully vaccinated or was previously positive with COVID-19 in the past 90 days is for providing correct isolation requirements for contacts of a COVID-19 case. A reminder has been added to note that no public health information is being collected when individuals complete the screening tool.

- **International Travel** – the international travel question has been revised to provide better clarity about who can and cannot attend school after travelling. While unvaccinated children under the age of 12 are exempt from federal quarantine if they travelled in the company of someone who qualified for an exemption from quarantine based on vaccination status, they may not attend school or child care for 14 days upon their return. Individuals with all other quarantine exemptions (e.g., travelling for cross-border custody arrangements; travelling for medical treatment) may continue to attend school or child care.

Copies of the new screener are available for download [here](#) and will be made available in multiple languages. These additional languages will be added online shortly.

We will continue to update the screening tool as public health guidance evolves and are committed to keeping child care partners informed of any changes. We ask that licensees/providers continue to work with local public health units to review your own screening materials to ensure that they meet the minimum requirements outlined in provincial guidance. Public health units continue to have the authority to implement additional measures based on local circumstances.

Thank you again for your continued support and collaboration in delivering safe and high-quality licensed child care and early years programs across Ontario.

Sincerely,

Phil Graham