



Summary of Changes - COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings

UPDATED: September 11, 2020

The COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings was updated September 11, 2020 from the previous version (updated July 29, 2020). The following are the most significant changes:

1. Updated introduction (pg. 1-4).
 - Includes updated evidence, details the impacts of prolonged school closures and the role of Medical Health Officers and school medical officers, who will play a significant role if a case/cases of COVID-19 affect a school.
2. Updated description of public health actions when a confirmed case/cases of COVID-19 affect a school (pg. 6-7, Appendix B).
 - Includes detailed information about contact tracing and managing clusters.
3. Updated description of physical distancing (pg. 10):
 - *Physical distancing refers to a range of measures aimed at reducing close contact with others. Physical distancing is used as a prevention measure because COVID-19 tends to spread through prolonged, close (face-to-face) contact.*
4. Updated guidance for when staff or students experience symptoms of illness (pg. 15-17, Appendix C).
 - Daily Health Check updated to:
 - i. Focus on key symptoms of concern
 - ii. Outlines what actions staff and students should take before returning to school after experiencing symptoms of illness
 - iii. Updated Appendix C.
5. New sections:
 - Environmental Measures:
 - i. Ventilation and Air Exchange (pg. 8)
 - Personal Measures:
 - i. Water Stations and Fountains (pg. 18)
 - ii. Personal Items and School Supplies (pg. 18)
6. Revised Food Services Section (pg. 14)
 - A new Appendix (D) provides additional guidance for school meal programs, breakfast clubs and other food access initiatives.

