



ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE SCHOOL

Under the direction of the Basilian Fathers

FAQ: A Follow up to November 2 COVID-19 Alert Update

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for your feedback and questions regarding our November 2 COVID-19 Alert Update. Parents have been asking great questions regarding exposure and some extenuating circumstances regarding isolation. The following is a list of possible scenarios/questions and associated responses prepared by our school nurse, Ms. Natalie Hnidec. We will continue to update this document as required.

Scenario 1: I have a son in Grade 9, Cohort A. My son does not have symptoms but is isolating. I have another son who attends SMCS. Should my other son stay home?

- Students who are identified as first-hand exposures of the student are required to stay home and self-isolate. If they do not have symptoms, there is no need for their other siblings to stay at home. This can also be at the discretion of the parent, should you decide to keep your other son home, please inform the school of this decision. We do strongly encourage this action as it is one of the ways parents can participate to a greater extent in keeping our SMCS students safe.

Scenario 2: I have a son in Grade 9, Cohort A. My son starts to have symptoms of COVID-19 during the 14-day isolation period. I also have a son in another cohort who is attending school, can my other son continue to attend?

- Since the exposed individual is having symptoms, please keep your other son home from school. Inform the school of his absence and state that you're now keeping your other son home because his brother is now experiencing symptoms. The school nurse will be in touch with you for further direction.

Scenario 3: I have a son in Grade 9, Cohort A. Does he need to get a COVID-19 test?

- You are required to isolate for the 14-day period with or without a COVID-19 test. If he does not have symptoms, you do not need to have a COVID-19 test done. If you do, and test positive, please inform the school. If your son develops symptoms of COVID-19 during isolation, please have a COVID test done and inform the school if it is positive.

Scenario 4: I have a son in Grade 9, Cohort A. He starts having symptoms of COVID-19. What should I do?

- Book a COVID-19 test at a COVID-19 screening centre. These centres are usually at hospitals and are by appointment only. If your son tests positive, please inform the school

Scenario 5: I heard that a student in Grade 9, Cohort A tested positive for COVID-19. My son takes a privately funded bus to school by an outsourced company but is in contact with many different students of different cohorts. Will I be informed if the student takes the bus?

- When the nurse speaks to the family of the identified positive individual, she will ask regarding transportation. Should she find out the student is part of this bus group, the school will contact the bus company so they can inform those on the bus of possible exposure. (In the November 2, 2020 case, the student was not part of this bus group)

Scenario 6: I know my son is isolating at home, but I can't remember what the symptoms for children are and since I am now monitoring myself too, what should I be looking for?

- Toronto Public Health resource for screening children can be found at the following web site:
 - <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/94e5-Survey-poster-Schools.pdf>
- Toronto Public Health resource for screening adults can be found here:
 - <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/95ea-Screening-poster-retail-entrance-TPH.pdf>

Scenario 7: My son is not in Grade 9, Cohort A, but I think one of his teachers might be teaching in that Cohort.

- The teachers with direct exposure to the student will be asked to isolate with all the students in Grade 9, Cohort A. They will continue to teach from home. All students and parents are asked daily to monitor and fill out the symptom tracker before they enter the school. These teachers have been informed to watch with a keen eye for symptoms of exposure. If your son is in another class led by that teacher, it is viewed by Toronto Public Health as a non-exposure. As long as your son does not have any symptoms on the questionnaire, he can attend school as usual. If you are not sure what symptoms of COVID-19 are, please see the links in Scenario #6.

Scenario 8: Can we know the name of the student who has tested positive for COVID-19? Will we also be informed if he is in their class?

- No. Positive COVID-19 results are protected under the Personal Health Information Act. This is confidential information and only those directly responsible for tracking the situation will know the name of the student.
- Classroom exposure is relatively nil, as desks and chairs are well spaced and students keep their masks on. Cohorts eat together in a designated area; this is seen as a heightened exposure area because students remove their masks. We act on the side of caution to keep everyone safe by excusing the whole cohort due to eating arrangements.

Scenario 9: How can I help stop the spread of COVID-19?

- Wear a face mask in public spaces, social distance, and participate in regular hand hygiene. Follow the directions of your local public health leadership team to decrease your risk.

Scenario 10: My son is in Grade 9, Cohort A. Since he is now home, what do we need to do as a family to stay safe?

- If your son has no symptoms, he is simply required to isolate at home. Your family should monitor themselves with a more acute lens. There is no need for the other individuals to isolate, but you may want to limit the number of contacts family members have. You can still go to work, your children can still attend other schools or classes if they are not in the Grade 9, Cohort A group.
- If one of the family members develops signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Stay home, isolate, and get tested. Await direction of Toronto Public Health.
- If you have questions regarding immunocompromised family members, please contact Telehealth or your health care providers with further directions on how to stay safe.

Scenario 11: I am doing my part and my son will be staying home. What is the school doing?

- A deep clean of the school is being performed. Students have been provided with sanitizing wipes upon entrance to all their classrooms to wipe down their desk and chair, frequently touched surfaces are cleaned regularly, doors are left open where possible to decrease contact with door handles, students are informed to wear their masks at all times except while eating in the cafeteria, hand hygiene stations are positioned all over the school and students are encouraged to sanitize regularly. All the students in Grade 9, Cohort A will be staying home for the 14-day period from the 29th of October. Teachers directly exposed to the individual who tested positive will also be in quarantine, however; students will have guest teachers for additional support. The school will be working with Toronto Public Health to ensure all guidelines are followed.

Scenario 12: My child is expressing a lot of anxiety surrounding COVID-19; our family is also stressed given the exposure.

- For the students at SMCS, we have both a Social Worker and a Registered Nurse who will be happy to assist should your son require additional support
- Toronto Public Health has outlined several resources for COVID-19 and Mental Health, they can be found at the following links:
 - School Mental Health Ontario: <https://smho-smsso.ca/covid-19>
 - CAMH: <https://www.camh.ca/en/health-info/mental-health-and-covid-19/stigma-and-prejudice>
 - Toronto Public Health: <https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/covid-19-protect-yourself-others/covid-19-mental-health-resources/>

