

FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

Positive COVID-19 Case at School

After testing positive for COVID-19, when can they return to school?

Lambton Public Health (LPH) will follow up with a person who tested positive for COVID-19 until their isolation period is complete. LPH will notify them when they can return to school.

After a person completes their isolation period, and is feeling well, they can return to school. They should continue to practice physical distancing and wear a mask as recommended.

What if a person who was positive for COVID-19 returns to school and still has symptoms (i.e. lingering cough)?

The complete absence of a cough is not required to be released from self-isolation especially those known to have chronic cough or experiencing reactive airway after infection.

Why can a person who was positive for COVID-19 return to school but still have family members at home isolating?

The isolation period differs for a positive case and a contact of a case. It is possible for a person who tested positive for COVID-19 to complete their isolation period before someone who was a contact of the case. Once a person completes their isolation period, they are no longer considered infectious.

Who is considered a contact of a case vs. contact of a contact?

A close contact is a person who had a high-risk exposure (close, prolonged, unprotected contact where transmission may have occurred) to a confirmed case during their period of communicability. This includes household, community and health-care exposures outlined in Ministry guidance on cases and contacts of COVID-19.

A contact of a contact is **not** considered to be at high risk of exposure to the virus and does not need to self-isolate.

For example: If a student is contacted by Lambton Public Health and told they were a close contact of someone who tested positive for COVID-19, the student would need to self-isolate for 14 days from the last date of contact with the COVID-19 positive person.

The rest of the student's family are contacts of contacts and are not required to self-isolate unless they begin showing symptoms.

What is considered a close contact of a case when it comes to teachers?

A close contact of a case is anyone who has close, prolonged, unprotected contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.

Brief interactions, teaching from recommended safe distances, and no identified breaches in PPE, are all examples of when an individual **may not** be considered a close contact.