

Scenarios for staff with school-aged children required to be away from school

The pandemic is dynamic, and with children back in school it's important to be aware of changes in COVID-19 screening criteria. For example, symptoms such as a runny nose and sneezing are no longer barriers for children to attend childcare settings.

To help you determine whether you can report to work if your child has potential symptoms of COVID-19 or has been potentially exposed to COVID-19 at school, please review the following scenarios:

Scenario 1: Your child(ren) has symptoms of COVID-19 and no known COVID-19 exposure.

- If you are fully vaccinated (per the COVID-19 Staff and Affiliate Vaccination Policy 02-199): You are able to come to work (not required to be on quarantine) while awaiting your child(ren's) COVID-19 test result.
- If you are not fully vaccinated: You must stay at home and quarantine until your child(ren) receives a negative COVID-19 test result.

Scenario 2: Your asymptomatic (symptom-free) child is sent home from school as a high-risk contact to a positive COVID-19 case.

- You can come to work regardless of whether or not you are fully vaccinated.
- If you are fully vaccinated: If your child(ren) becomes symptomatic, you can come to work.
- If you are not fully vaccinated: If your child(ren) becomes symptomatic, you must stay at home and quarantine until your child receives a negative COVID-19 test result.

Scenario 3: Someone in your household tests positive for COVID-19, you notify Occupational Health, Safety & Wellness (OHSW) and get tested yourself for COVID-19.

- If you are fully vaccinated: If you receive a negative test, then report to work and follow the precautions provided by OHSW. As a high-risk fully vaccinated contact of a positive COVID-19 case, you will be required to be on work isolation. OHSW will also ensure you are scheduled for a second COVID-19 test on day seven.
- If you are not fully vaccinated: You are not permitted to attend work and should contact OHSW.

Our staff screening questions cover scenarios that will help guide your decisions and are updated if protocols change. Please review the up-to-date questions for accurate and up-to-date screening at the start of every shift.

It is difficult to predict if and when a COVID-19 outbreak may occur in a school setting and how each will be individually managed. Employees are encouraged to make arrangements for contingency plans ahead of time should your child be required to be home from school for illness or any other reason.