The Covid-19 Pivot

Emerging COVID Issues: Preparing for the second wave

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Learning Objectives

By the end of this activity, participants will be able to:

1. To recognize the implications of children returning to school during the COVID-19 pandemic including health and safety protocols, testing recommendations and symptom management.
2. To list the considerations and challenges of administering the seasonal influenza vaccine during the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. To determine the initial management of patients presenting with influenza-like illness during the 2nd wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.
Symptoms of COVID-19 in children

- Fever
- New onset of cough
- Worsening chronic cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- Sore throat
- Difficulty swallowing
- Decrease or loss of sense of taste or smell
- Chills
- Headaches
- Unexplained fatigue/malaise/muscle aches (myalgias)
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain
- Pink eye (conjunctivitis)
- Runny nose or nasal congestion without other known cause

STOP COVID-19 Please complete before entering the school.

Name: __________________________ Date: _______ Time: _______

1. Does your child have any of the following new or worsening symptoms?
   - Fever > 37.8°C
   - Cough
   - Difficulty breathing
   - Loss of taste or smell

   If “YES”: Stay home, self-isolate & get tested or contact your child’s health care provider.

2. Does your child have any of the following new or worsening symptoms?
   - Sore throat, painful swallowing
   - Stuffy/runny nose
   - Headache
   - Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
   - Feeling unwell, muscle aches, feeling tired

   If “YES” to 1 symptom:
   - Stay home for 24 hours from when symptom started.
   - If improving in 24 hours, can return to school.
   - No test needed.
   - If not improving, or getting worse, self-isolate & get tested.

   If “YES” to 2 or more symptoms:
   - Stay home, self-isolate & get tested or contact your child’s health care provider.

3. Has your child travelled outside of Canada in the past 14 days? □ Yes □ No

4. Has your child been identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19? □ Yes □ No

5. Has your child been instructed to stay home and self-isolate? □ Yes □ No

   If you answered “YES” to questions 3, 4 or 5:
   - Your child must stay home, self-isolate & follow the advice of public health.

*Children who have an existing health condition identified by a health care provider that gives them the symptoms should not answer YES, unless the symptom is new, different or getting worse. Look for changes from your child’s normal symptoms.

TORONTO.CA/COVID19
Patient requests for work accommodations: Information for family doctors

Updated – October 2, 2020

Information from government sources is very general in terms of who's high risk for severe illness from COVID, so the OCFP has pulled together advice from various specialty groups to help you. As a family doctor, you will use your clinical judgement and knowledge of your patient in the advice you give as it relates to any potential requirements for that individual to be exempt from being at work in person, or to work remotely.

The recommendations that follow are unavoidably based on expert opinion and extrapolation from the morbidity and mortality data we have thus far from the COVID epidemic.

**Please note** it is up to you as the family doctor to recommend restrictions and limitations. It is the employer’s obligation to provide accommodations according to the Human Rights Code.

In general, writing doctor’s notes:

As referenced above, your role in these circumstances is to provide information in support of a third-party process (e.g., work accommodation form), not to determine the outcome of the process (OPSEU). In short, accommodation is the responsibility of the employer.

Suggesting wording on notes could be:

The workplace would need to ensure the proper public health measures are in place as a minimum requirement, and that the individual can be 2 metres from others at all times while ensuring their mask wearing and frequent hand hygiene.

High-risk Conditions

There are conditions with high enough risk of severe COVID to warrant workplace accommodation, beyond routine precautions (mask wearing, physical distancing, hand washing). It is reasonable for family doctors to connect with a treating specialist, as needed, when responding to a request related to work accommodation.

Pregnancy: Patients with complications of pregnancy such as diabetes, preeclampsia, anemia, advanced maternal age (>35s), and already require work from home (Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada). Of note: “Current data do not suggest an increased risk of severe disease from COVID-19 in healthy pregnant women compared to non-pregnant reproductive-aged women.”

Asthma: Patients with mild-moderate asthma should work from home if feasible. Patients with severe asthma should also work from home if feasible and, if not feasible, should remain off work for medical reasons until such time as the WHO or local public health authorities declare physical distancing is no longer necessary” (Canadian Thoracic Society, “Physical Distancing for Asthma Patients” section).

This will be an evolving clinical issue to monitor - of note, asthma was not associated with an increased risk of hospitalization for COVID patients. The CTS April 30 guidance is due to be revised.

COPD: “Patients should stay at home as much as possible, including working from home if feasible” (Canadian Thoracic Society).
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Resources for family physicians
Background document for Toronto District School Board (TDSB) Infographic

• https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid19-cms-assets/2020-10/Screening%20Children%20v1.0%202020-10-01%20FINAL%20EN%20AODA.pdf

TDSB Infographic


Ontario school screening online questionnaire:

https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/
Guidance for students in York Region, Ontario during COVID-19


Dr. Abenstein’s CFP blog and Back to School resource for families:

https://www.cfp.ca/news/2020/08/26/08-26

Government of ON. Fall Preparedness Plan for health, Long-term care and education:

Guidance for Immunization Services During COVID-19:

Influenza Vaccine Fact Sheet, Public Health Ontario

Curbside/Drive-Through Vaccination Clinics (CDC)
• https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/mass-clinic-activities/curbside-vaccination-clinics.html
PHAC guidance document on giving flu shots during a pandemic


Pediatric Algorithm, Alberta:


Adult Algorithm, Alberta


Centre for Effective Practice algorithm:

Testing and Clearance


Tracking App


Workplace Accommodation link:

• [https://www.ontariofamilyphysicians.ca/tools-resources/covid-19-resources/high-risk-conditions-workplace-accom.pdf](https://www.ontariofamilyphysicians.ca/tools-resources/covid-19-resources/high-risk-conditions-workplace-accom.pdf)