



Valley Way Public School

5315 Valley Way ■ Niagara Falls, ON ■ L2E 1X4 ■ 905-356-6611 ■ valleyway.dsbni.org

February 8, 2021

Good afternoon Valley Way families,

We want to provide you with some very important updates.

Niagara Region Public Health has revised the protocol for the daily self screening. Please read the new screening criteria thoroughly so you know what the protocol is when you are screening your child(ren) before school and in the event your child becomes symptomatic while at school.

The NEW symptom screening criteria for children is:

If your child has one or more of the following new or worsening symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Decrease or loss of smell or taste
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- Fatigue, lethargy, or muscle aches

They must self-isolate at home immediately and then have a choice of the following options:

1. Contact your healthcare provider, walk-in clinic, or online virtual clinic for guidance (which can be provided over the phone) OR
2. Contact a Niagara Health COVID-19 Assessment Centre to book an appointment for testing. This can be done on-line or by calling Niagara Health at 905-378-4647 ext. 42819

Your child's return to school can be permitted under the following conditions:

- A negative test and 24-hour symptom free.
- Parents are advised by a health care provider that the symptoms are related to a chronic or pre-existing condition.
- The child completes a 10-day self-isolation and is without fever. This is for those who have chosen not to be tested.

Exception to the above protocol:

If your child has no other symptoms and only has a runny nose, they need to self-isolate at home immediately, but can wait 24 hours to see if there is improvement before doing anything further. If the



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runny nose improves after 24 hours, your child may return to school or child care when they feel well enough without an assessment or test. Household members do not need to be in self isolation while waiting 24 hours to see if the runny nose improves.

Please note that this direction comes from Niagara Region Public Health and the District School Board of Niagara will be complying with this mandate. If you have any questions about the new screening criteria please call Niagara Region Public Health at 905-378-4647 ext. 42819