



The First Virtual Healthy Schools and Communities Principal Meeting

October 26, 2020 – 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Technical challenge: Email Javier.Rincon@halton.ca

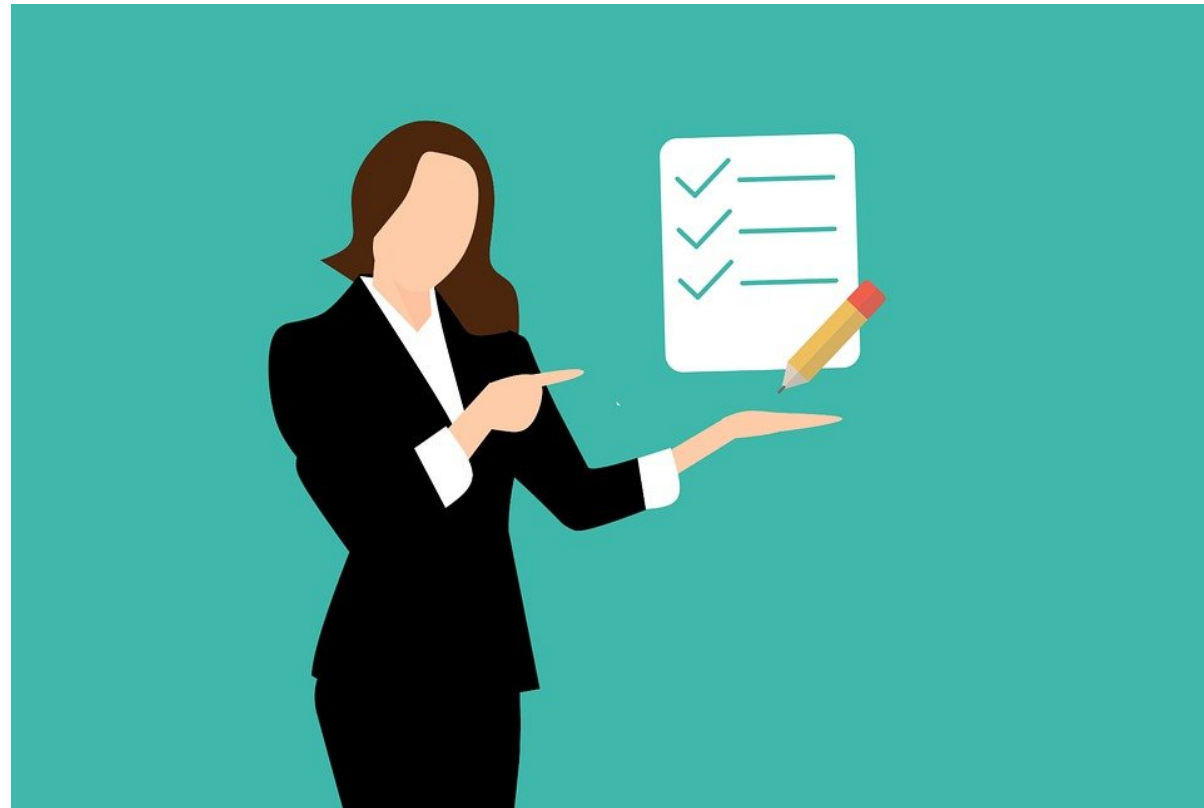


Agenda

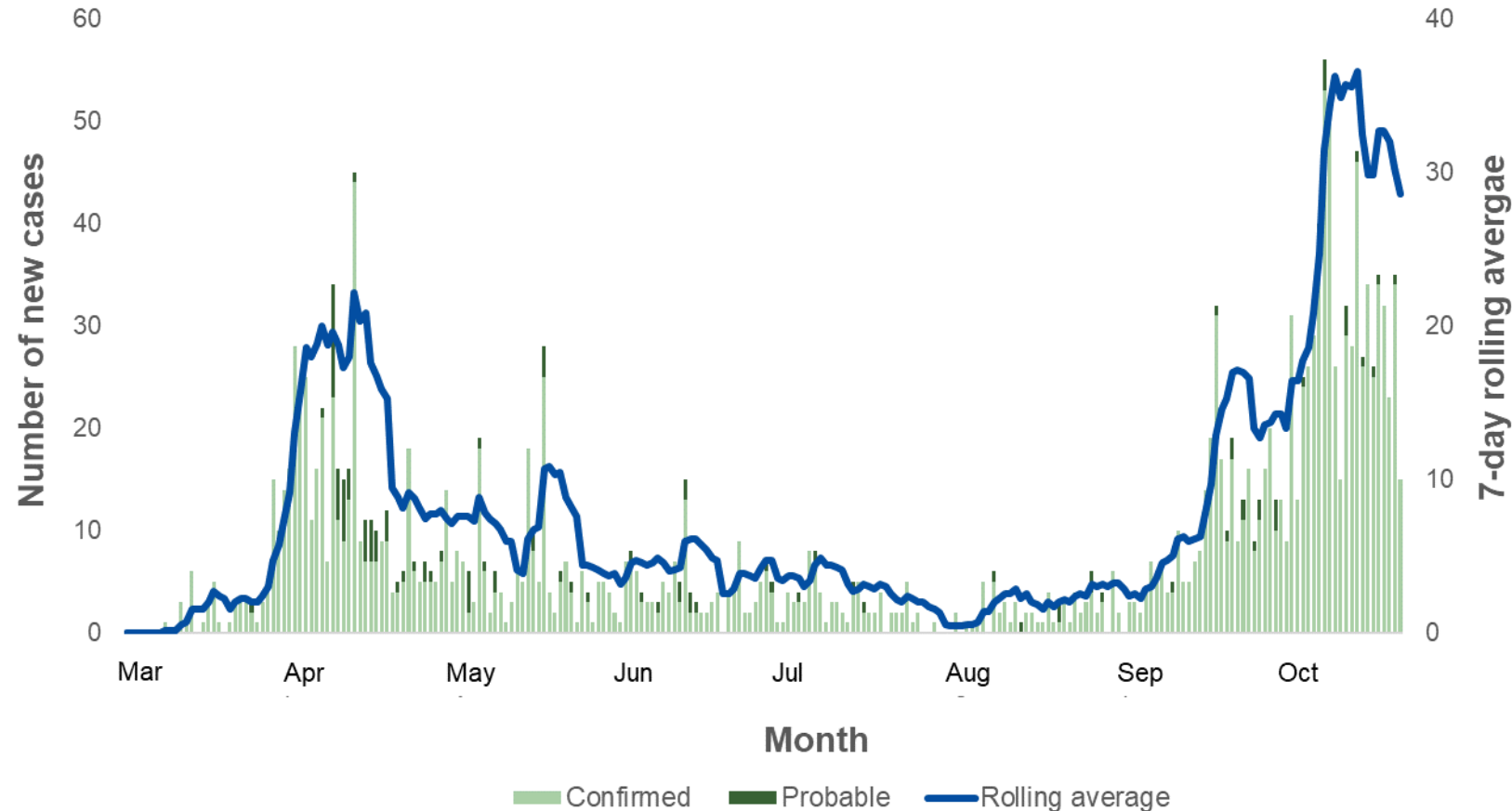
Time	Topic	Speaker
9:30 a.m.	Welcome and Introductions	Lynne Hanna, Manager, School Years; Moderator
9:40	COVID-19 Update	Dr. Hamidah Meghani, Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health
10:00	School IPAC resources, education, promotion and visits: What to expect; issues heard	Brenda Soper-Manning, PHN, Halton Region Public Health
10:30	Q&A	Dr. Hamidah Meghani, Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health
10:55	Wrap up	Lynne Hanna, Moderator



Poll



COVID-19 cases over time



Total cases: 1,948

- Active: 222
- Resolved: 1,696
- Deceased: 30



Fig: Number of new COVID-19 cases, by day and type, Mar 1-Oct 22 2020

COVID-19 cases by age

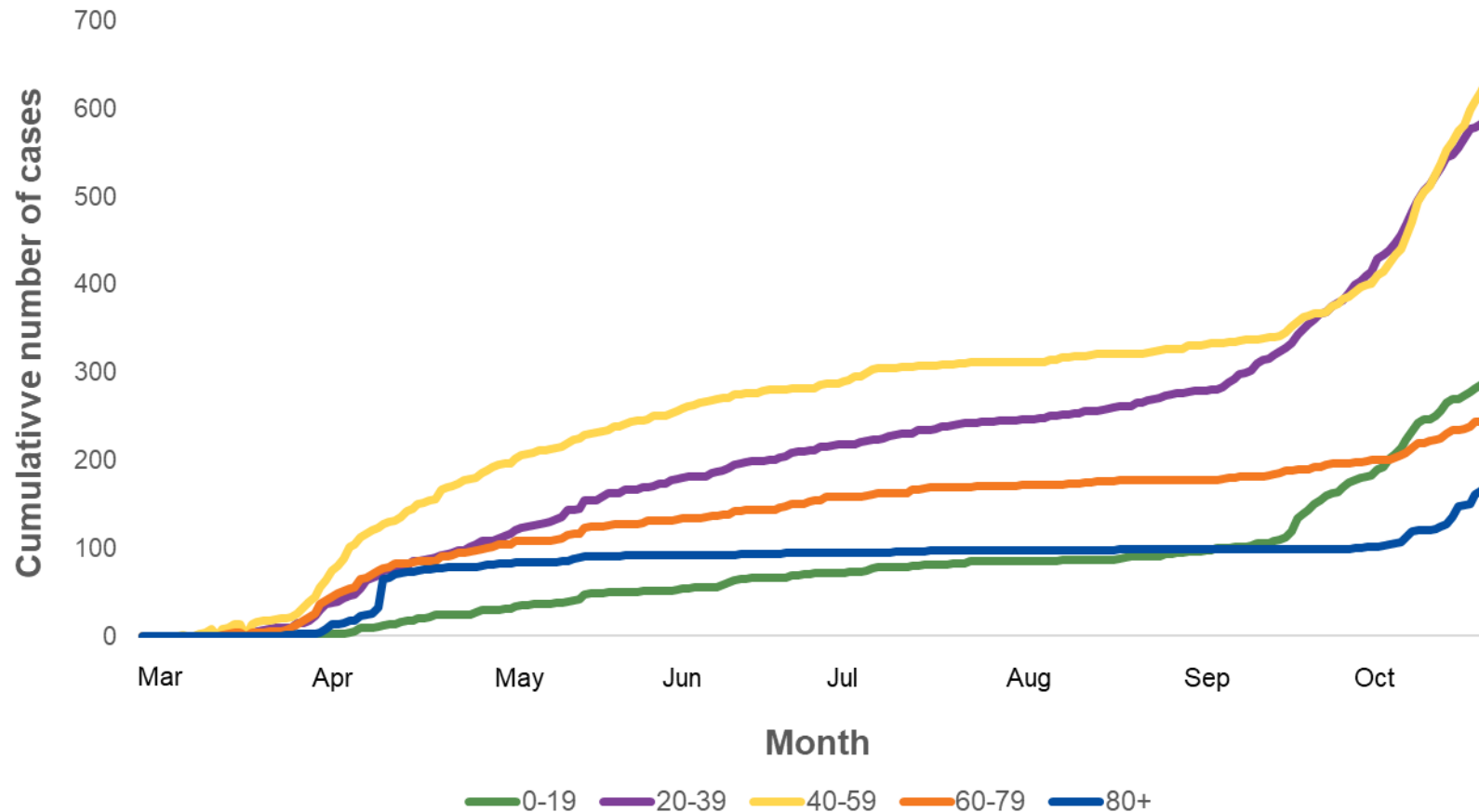
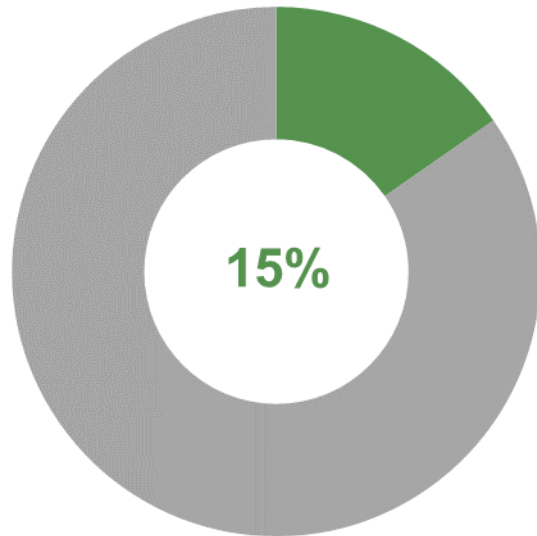


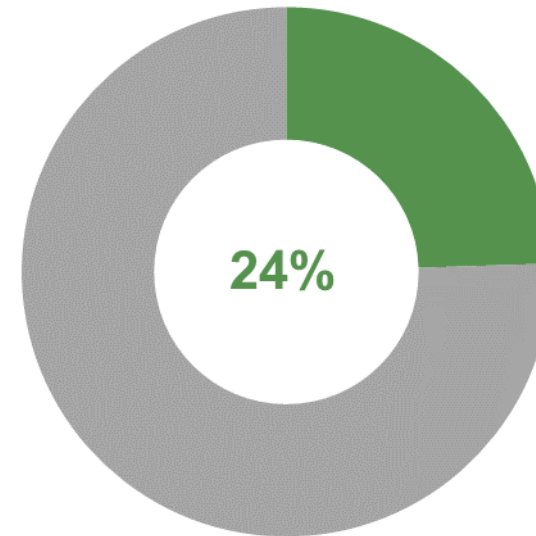
Fig: Cumulative number of COVID-19 cases, by age group, Mar 1-Oct 22 2020

Proportion of COVID-19 cases by age

% of cases aged 0-19 (Halton)



% of population aged 0-19 (Halton)



Common symptoms of COVID-19 among children

So far, most children infected with the virus experience mild symptoms.



- Fever
- Cough
- Runny Nose
- Sore Throat
- Headache
- Body Ache
- Diarrhea

Cases in Halton schools

Between the start of the school year and October 22:

47 schools have had at least one confirmed or probable case among their students or staff, including **15** staff and **65** students. Most acquired the infection outside the school.

1 school has experienced an outbreak, involving **6** cases.

982 contacts associated with schools have been identified



COVID-19 Contacts in Halton

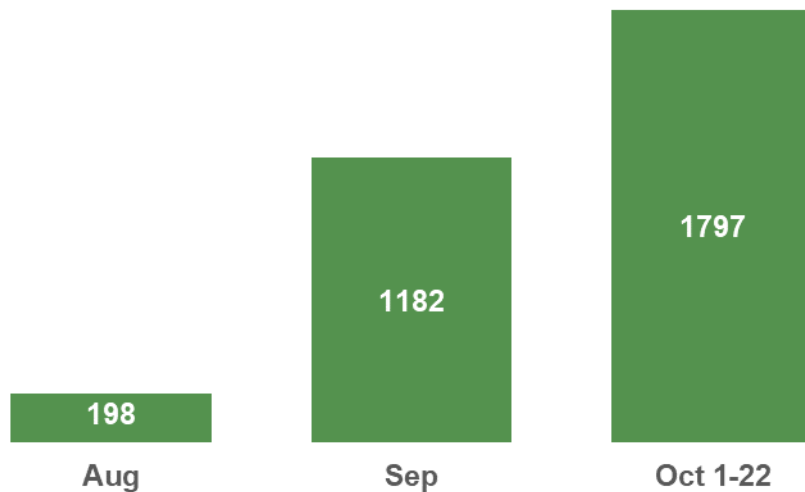
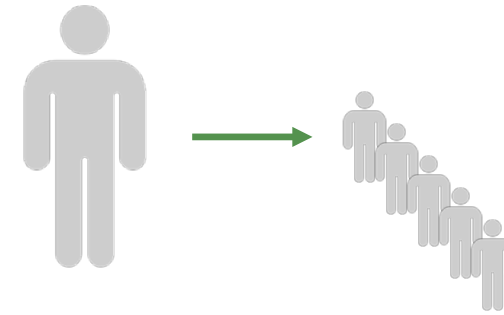


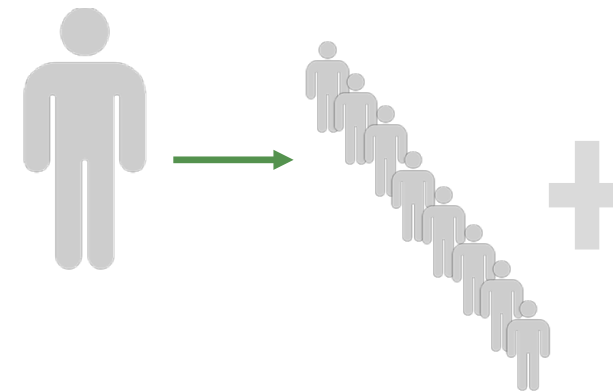
Fig: Number of new high-risk contacts, Halton, Aug 1-Oct 22 2020



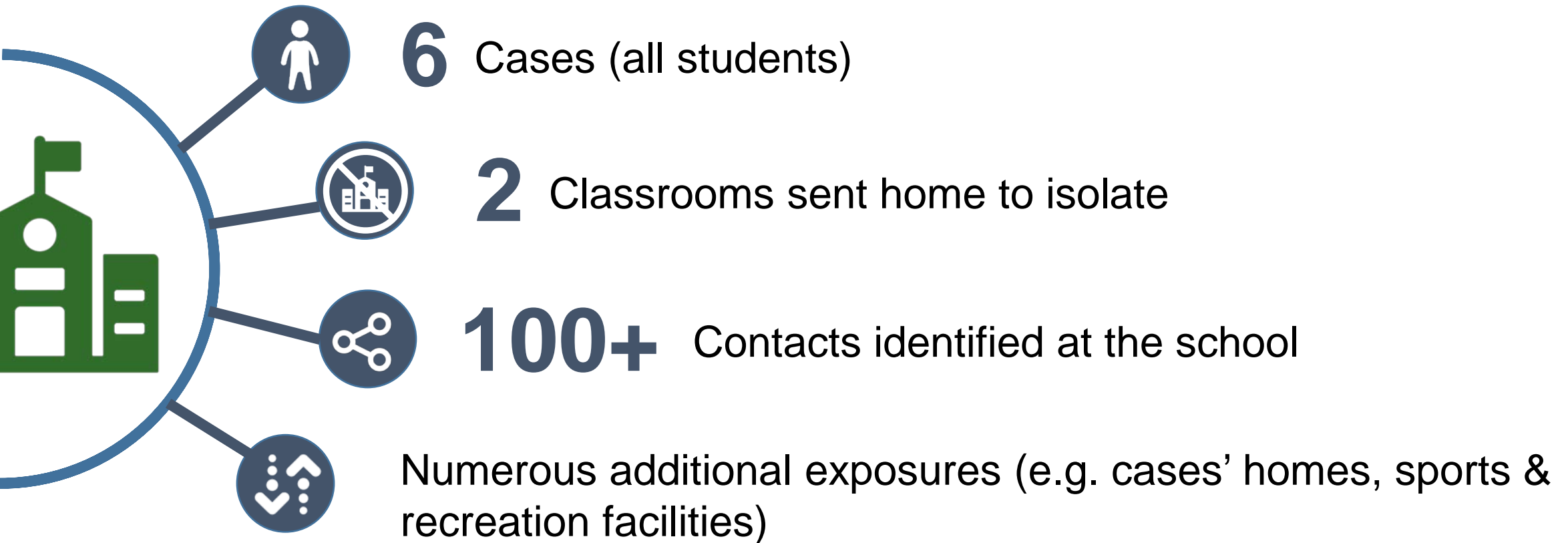
Wave 1: 2-5 contacts per case



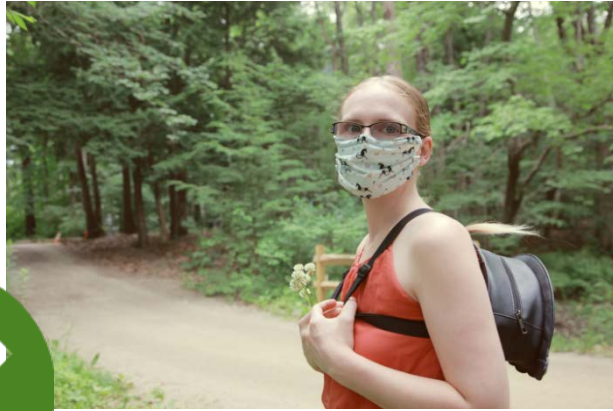
Wave 2: 2-8 contacts per case, but with extreme outliers



COVID-19 school outbreak



Team sports and fitness clubs



Roles



Ministries of Health/Education

- Guidance
- Standards
- PPE
- Screening tool
- Reporting
- Communication



Halton Region Public Health

- Prevention & preparedness
- Case & contact management
- Outbreak assessment and management
- Surveillance
- Coordination and communication



School Boards

- Boards
 - Safety plans
 - Policies
- Schools
 - Implement IPAC measures
 - Notification
 - Staff screening
 - Teach hand hygiene
 - Provide isolation method/space
 - Reporting



Parents

- Screen children
- Reinforce public health messaging

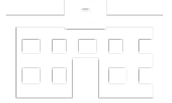


Ontario Health/Hospitals

- Coordinate planning
- Deploy testing
- Assessment Centres
- Virtual Care
- Critical Care

Public Health

- Provide recommendations, guidance and resources to help school boards and private schools develop policies and procedures to ensure the health and safety of staff, students, parents/guardians and visitors
- Support training and educational opportunities for school staff regarding infection prevention and control practices
- Develop processes and protocols for managing sick students and staff at school
- Develop guidance around managing a confirmed case of COVID-19 and an outbreak at school
- Ensure schools have child-friendly resources that support healthy behaviours in the school setting
- Support infection prevention and control (IPAC) with schools; and
- Conduct surveillance of student/staff absenteeism specific to COVID-19



Case Management and Contact Tracing

If an outbreak is declared at a school, **we will investigate** to see whether others are impacted, **define the outbreak area** and **identify any others who will need to be contacted and tested.**



Management of
a confirmed
COVID-19 case
in your school
community

Recent changes

- Class order
- Screening guidelines
- Program changes



Class Order

Key amendments to the Class Order include:

- Revision of the categories of people to whom the Class Order applies, and directions for how long they need to self-isolate
- Household contacts of symptomatic individuals are no longer required to self-isolate (provided they have no COVID-19 symptoms themselves); and
- Emphasis on the legal requirement for individuals to remain reachable for monitoring by Halton Region Public Health and to share the names and contact information for all contacts if requested by Halton Region Public Health



Screening Tool

Set One

Fever and/or chills (temperature of 37.8°C/100.0°F or greater)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Cough (more than usual if chronic cough) including croup (barking cough, making a whistling noise when breathing) <i>Not related to other known causes or conditions (e.g., asthma, reactive airway)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Shortness of breath (dyspnea, out of breath, unable to breathe deeply, wheeze, that is worse than usual if chronically short of breath) <i>Not related to other known causes or conditions (e.g., asthma)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Decrease or loss of smell or taste (new olfactory or taste disorder) <i>Not related to other known causes or conditions (e.g., nasal polyps, allergies, neurological disorders)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

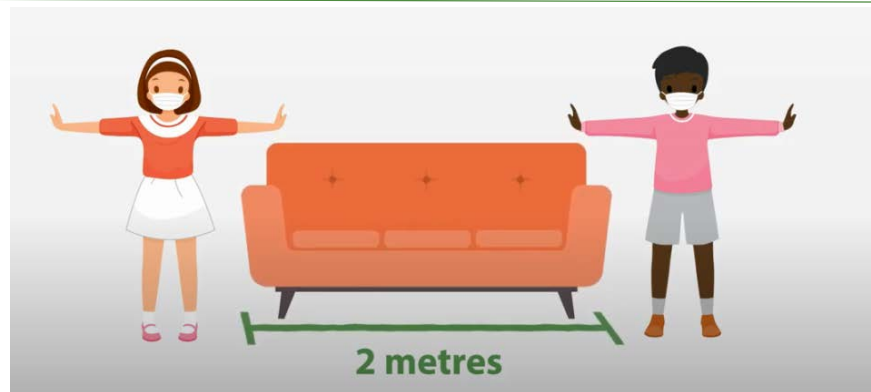
Set Two

Sore throat (painful swallowing or difficulty swallowing) <i>Not related to other known causes or conditions (e.g., post nasal drip, gastroesophageal reflux)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Stuffy nose and/or runny nose (nasal congestion and/or rhinorrhea) <i>Not related to other known causes or conditions (e.g., seasonal allergies, returning inside from the cold, chronic sinusitis unchanged from baseline, reactive airways)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Headache that is new and persistent, unusual, unexplained, or long-lasting <i>Not related to other known causes or conditions (e.g., tension-type headaches, chronic migraines)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea <i>Not related to other known causes or conditions (e.g., transient vomiting due to anxiety in children, chronic vestibular dysfunction, irritable bowel syndrome, inflammatory bowel disease, side effect of medication)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Fatigue, lethargy, muscle aches or malaise (general feeling of being unwell, lack of energy, extreme tiredness, poor feeding in infants) that is unusual or unexplained <i>Not related to other known causes or conditions (e.g., depression, insomnia, thyroid dysfunction, anemia)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Additional Measures



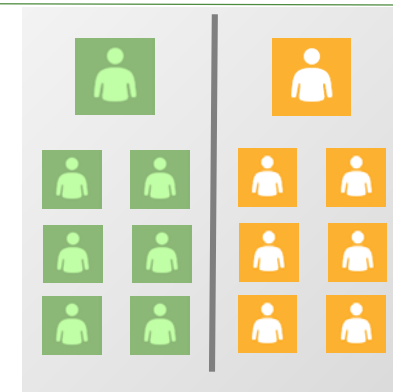
Stay home when ill



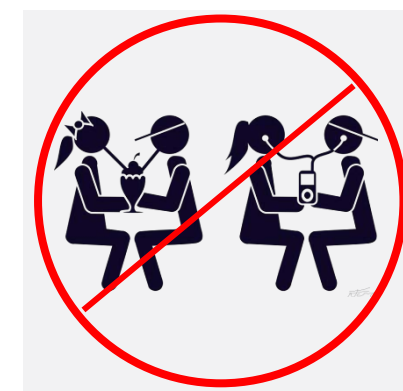
Physical distancing



Masking



Cohorts



Infection prevention and control measures



Program changes



Immunization



Oral Health



School Years

Immunization

- Halton Public Health delivers the Grade 7 school-based vaccine program and enforcement of the *Immunization of School Pupils Act* (ISPA) and *Child Care and Early Years Act* (CCEYA)
- This program relies on partnership and collaboration with school boards, child care facilities, and Halton families
- Because of COVID-19, delivery of this year's vaccine program will be at venues within the community, outside of the school setting
- Grade 7 immunization clinics delayed



Oral Health

- Follow-up through phone calls and letters is underway for children whose files remain open from 2019-20 school screening program
- If feasible, the school screening program may resume in Winter 2021 for select schools
- Oral health promotion strategy is being augmented as a result of the impact of COVID-19 to the school screening program



School years

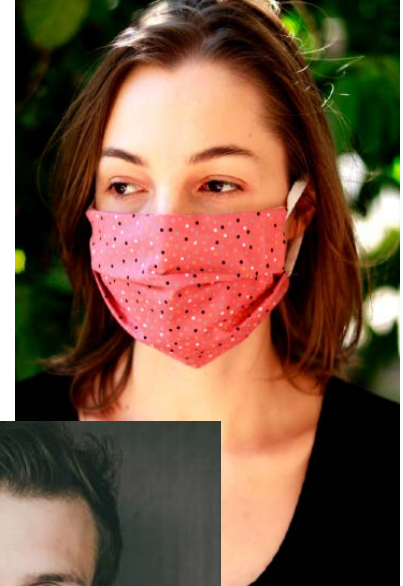
- Significant change in core model of service as staff deployed to COVID-19
- Support communications, policy development and safe re-opening and operations



Roles for School Health Nurses

Support existing school health and infectious disease control programs in public health:

- manage positive cases, high-risk contacts and potential outbreaks in school settings
- provide school boards/schools with guidance and resources to support school reopening and ongoing operations
- provide resources and support for educators, children and their families to prevent the spread of COVID-19; and
- address other health and wellbeing issues such as, mental health



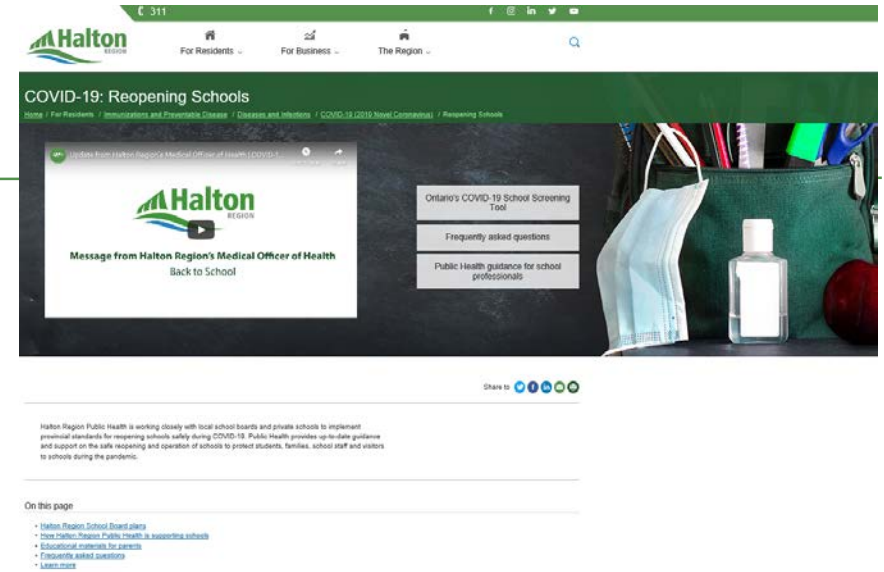
Resources

School Years Program webpage

- Public Health Recommendations for School Reopening 2020-2021
- School and Child Care Protocol for Individuals with COVID-19 Symptoms
- Return to School and Child Care Protocol for Individuals with COVID-19 Symptoms
- Public Health Update for Schools E-newsletter

Reopening Schools webpage

- Links
- Educational materials
- FAQ



What happens if there is a confirmed case?



Notify

- Notify the school principal within 24 hours of the PHU knowing about the case

Investigate

- Investigate and manage reports of cases and contacts by phone with school principal
- Provide letter(s) to notify staff and parents/guardians of the COVID-19 exposure

Review

- Review the Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) and outbreak control measures; refer to reference documents

Follow-up

- Follow up with principal if any new cases are reported

Support

- Support school to address any other questions/concerns related to the confirmed COVID-19 case

What if there is more than one confirmed case?



Notify

- Notify the school principal within 24 hours of the PHU knowing about the case

Investigate

- Investigate and manage reports of cases and contacts by phone with school principal
- Investigate clusters

Assess risk

- Assess risk to determine whether to declare an outbreak

Declare outbreak/ Testing

- If an outbreak is declared a declaration letter is provided to the school principal with recommendations on cohort isolation, testing requirements and any school dismissal communication.

Follow-up

- Complete daily follow-up (IPAC in place, new people with symptoms, assess status, provide support. Review IPAC and refer to reference documents)
- Declare outbreak over (by phone and written communication)

Preparedness and Prevention

School visits will include:

- Assessment
- Education
- Resources

Tools:

- [Halton's Recommendations for Schools Reopening](#)
- Public Health Ontario's Preparedness and Prevention [Checklist](#)



Issues we heard from you

Mask Exemptions

- Exemptions are allowed
- No documentation required
- Importance of other IPAC measures



Issues we heard from you

School Gatherings and Events

- Importance of IPAC measures
- Gathering limits do not apply
- Additional cohorts increase risk
- Clubs and extracurricular activities may continue



Questions and Answers



Questions

- Q. As we move physical education classes from outside to indoors, are there any specific suggestions or guidelines to keep in mind?
- Q. If a parent travels outside Canada (specifically to the Florida, USA), and will be in the same home as the child/student when returning, what does that mean for the student who attends school? Will the student also have to isolate for 14 days from the time the parent returns home?
- Q. Will children be able to celebrate Halloween this year?
- Q. How can we coach students in a cohort to distance while outdoors? Without balls and playground equipment, it feels impossible to keep our students separated. Is it unreasonable to expect students in a single cohort to distance?

Questions

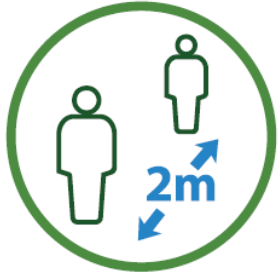
Q. When can a child return to school after experiencing COVID-19 symptoms?

Q. What is considered an outbreak in a school?

Q. What PPE are staff required to wear?

Q. If one child in a household is experiencing symptom(s) of COVID-19, are their sibling(s) also required to stay home and self-isolate?

Thank you and wrap up



Practice physical distancing by maintaining a 2-metre (6-foot) distance from others outside of your social circle or household.



Wear a mask.*



Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or sleeve.



Avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose.



Wash hands frequently with soap and water or with alcohol-based hand rub.



Get tested for COVID-19 if you have a symptom or are concerned that you have been exposed.



*Teachers are required to wear medical masks while in the school setting