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From the Office of Dr. Joyce Lock, Medical Officer of Health, Southwestern Public Health

Updated process for suspected COVID-19 cases in schools

The COVID-19 School Decision Support resources for parents and school administrators have been updated.

These are required updates to reflect the Ministry of Health's new [COVID-19 Variant of Concern: Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Interim Guidance](#).

We are highlighting changes that will directly impact schools and families. Of particular importance, Scenario 3 outlines a change in practice with regards to household members of contacts, (i.e., contacts of a contact):

- Public health units should counsel close contacts to tell their household members that they are required to stay home except for essential reasons for the duration of the contact's quarantine period.
- Essential reasons include:
 - Attending work/school/childcare
 - Essential errands such as groceries, attending medical appointments or picking up prescriptions.

Updated resources:

- [COVID-19 School Decision Tree for Parents](#)
- [COVID-19 School Decision Tree for School Administrators](#)

Thank you,

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