

Dear Parent/Guardian:

With the 2020-21 school year underway, I would like to tell you about the actions we are taking to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 in our school. This letter also includes information about what you can do to protect yourself and your family.

The most [common symptoms of COVID-19 \(PDF\)](#) include:

- Fever (temperature of 37.8°C or greater)
- New or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath (dyspnea)

**Other symptoms of COVID-19 can include:**

- Sore throat
- Headache, chills, fatigue, malaise or muscle aches
- New olfactory or taste disorder(s)
- Nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain
- Runny nose, or nasal congestion (in absence of underlying reasons for these symptoms such as seasonal allergies, post nasal drip, etc.)

**You must screen your child for symptoms every day before they come to school.**

You can use the Ministry of Health's Ministry of Health's Ontario [COVID-19 self-assessment tool](#) for this purpose. If your child has any symptoms of COVID-19 or if they are ill, they should not attend school. You should report your child's absence from school by contacting us by phone at (519-824-1890) or by email ([attendance@ercf.ca](mailto:attendance@ercf.ca)). Students who become ill during the day will be isolated and must be picked up from school as soon as possible. Symptomatic students will not be able to use student transportation.

Please consult the [Ministry of Health's COVID-19 reference document for symptoms](#) (PDF) for other clinical features of COVID-19 and when atypical signs and symptoms of COVID-19 should be considered, particularly in children.

If you're worried your child or any member of your household has been exposed to COVID-19 or has symptoms, you should use the Ministry of Health's Ontario [COVID-19 self-assessment tool](#). You will get a recommendation on what to do next.

We are working with our local Public Health Unit to take steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our school and will keep you updated with new information as it becomes available. To reduce the risk of COVID-19 in our school, multiple measures have been implemented, for example, enhanced cleaning and reducing the number of contacts among individuals in the school, including students, staff, and others.

The Ontario Ministry of Health advises everyone to take an active role in protecting themselves from COVID-19. Here are a few things that you and your family can do:

- wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- sneeze and cough into your sleeve
- avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- avoid contact with people who are sick
- stay home and [isolate](#) if you or anyone in your household is sick

For more information on COVID-19 please visit [Ontario.ca/coronavirus](https://ontario.ca/coronavirus).

If you have any questions about what our school is doing, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Cindy Westendorp

Principal