

## Step-by-Step Guide for Students and Learners attending placements, labs, or classes In-Person during COVID-19

### Purpose

This document is provided to guide **students and learners** who are on placements or learning in-person with information about self-assessment, reporting and minimizing exposure to COVID-19. Materials should be read in conjunction with the [McMaster COVID-19](#) webpages.

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## Self-Assessment and Reporting

### Student and Learner Responsibilities when attending placements, labs, or classes In-Person:

1. Complete the COVID-19 Awareness Training before attending placements, labs, or classes in person the first time. (The COVID-19 Awareness training has already been uploaded into [Avenue to Learn](#) for all active students.)
2. Except as noted, complete the [Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool](#) **everyday** no more than one hour before arriving onsite and follow the recommendations.
3. When you are having symptoms of COVID-19 or have tested positive for COVID-19, or your self-assessment results recommend testing or self-isolation, complete the COVID-19 Reporting Tool in [Mosaic](#). The reporting tile is on the home page of [Mosaic](#).



**NOTE:** Reporting is not required for those that are going for routine or voluntary testing; however, if their screening results come back requiring testing or self-isolation, they should follow the reporting protocol outlined in the guide.

### NOTE FOR CLINICAL LEARNERS:

- For clinical learners who are attending placements, labs, or classes at a host hospital site or clinic that has an alternate screening tool in place, there is no need to also complete the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool on a daily basis.
- Clinical learners will need to report as per protocols at both their host hospital/placement and the COVID-19 Reporting Tool in Mosaic.
- When clinical learners are contacted by the Student Wellness Centre (SWC), they should disclose if they are in clinical setting or on campus.
- For clinical learners, please follow clinical site guidelines for return to practice (when they exist):
  - Students need to be aware that host hospitals/placements may allow students to return to work placements, but require ongoing self-isolation in the community/home.
  - Where no guidelines exist at the host hospital/placement, clinical learners should follow Public Health guidelines.
- If requested, SWC will provide a letter indicating the clinical learner is ready for clearance for return to placement/in person learning, in accordance with Public Health guidelines.
- The letter from SWC may be required for return to **on campus** learning, depending on program requirements.

## Probable or Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

This section sets out a Student or Learners' Responsibilities if any of the following apply:

- you have been referred for testing or advised to self-isolate;
- you have symptoms of COVID-19;
- you have tested positive for COVID-19;
- you have travelled from out of country within the last 14 days; or
- you have had close physical contact with someone who is having symptoms of COVID-19 or recently travelled within the last 14 days with COVID-19 symptoms

1. Do not attend your placement, labs, or classes in-person.
2. Report using the COVID-19 Reporting Tool in [Mosaic](#) when you are having symptoms of COVID-19 or have tested positive for COVID-19, or your self-assessment results recommend testing or self-isolation. The reporting tile is on the home page of [Mosaic](#).
3. If you have not already done so, complete the [Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool](#). Follow the recommendations provided to you by the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool or Public Health, and those of your health care provider.
4. You will be contacted by the Student Wellness Centre to follow up on your notification.



- **If you have been attending virtual classes** and are feeling well enough, please continue to attend classes virtually. If you are not well enough to participate in virtual classes, students or learners are to follow any standard methods for absence reporting as per Faculty protocols.
- **If you are living in residence**, contact your [HCShelp@mcmaster.ca](mailto:HCShelp@mcmaster.ca) for more information. You will need to follow [self-isolation practices in your residence](#).
- **If you are onsite and feeling unwell**, immediately put on a mask if you are not already wearing one. You are encouraged to notify your instructor. You will be asked follow up with your healthcare practitioner and/or complete the [Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool](#).

**NOTE:** Medical clearance needs to be provided prior to returning to classes, labs, research facilities, etc., on-site. Details are listed in the next section.

## Returning to In-Person Learning

**This section sets out a Student or Learners' Responsibilities following COVID-19 related illness, symptoms, travel, or isolation:**

1. Follow up with your healthcare practitioner and/or follow the recommendations provided to you by the Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool or Public Health.
2. Depending on the situation, you need to have completed the 14-day isolation period, be asymptomatic and/or had a negative test result.
3. Staff at the Student Wellness Centre will contact you directly to review the date you can return to campus and any documentation that may be required.

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## Notification

**Will students/learners, faculty or staff be notified by the university if they were on-site at the same time as a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19?**

When a student/learner, faculty or staff member reports a probable or confirmed case of COVID-19, cleaning and disinfection of the affected area will be completed in compliance with Public Health guidelines.

- Public areas where a person has passed through and spent minimal time (such as corridors) do not need to be specially cleaned and disinfected.
- A prompt cleaning of areas of prolonged contact will be completed.

**NOTE:** the affected space (not the entire building) may need to be shut down for a period of time until cleaning is completed.

Should there be a confirmed COVID-19 case in the McMaster community, Public Health will do contact tracing to identify individuals that may have been in close contact and may be at risk. Public Health will contact those individuals directly.

In the event of a confirmed case, faculty, staff and students/learners should all be vigilant and continue to self-monitor for symptoms using the [Ontario COVID-19 self-assessment tool](#). As the laboratory testing capacity has increased, additional testing is available for those that are having even mild symptoms or those that are asymptomatic but are concerned about COVID-19 exposure or are essential workers. Individuals can contact their local Public Health unit for details and to arrange testing as needed.