

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Office of the Commissioner of Education

20th October, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Re: COVID-19 Entry Screening Questions

The Department of Health has issued COVID-19 Guidance for School Settings. The Guidance sets out infection prevention and control measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Since schools opened for the 2020/2021 school year, students have participated in an entry screening that involved having their temperature taken and responding to four COVID-19 questions.

The Department of Education is revising the process for the entry screening and will continue to review this process.

Schools will continue to take temperatures when students arrive to school; however, effective Thursday, 22nd October, 2020, the process for asking the questions will be revised.

Instead of students being asked the questions when they arrive at school, you are asked to consider the four COVID-19 questions **each day**, before your child departs from the household and before you send your child to a public school. The questions are as follows:

- 1. Do you or your child have symptoms of COVID-19 including Fever (equal or greater than 38 degrees Celsius or 100.4 Fahrenheit), Cough, Muscle aches and tiredness, Difficulty breathing, sore throat, headache, diarrhea or vomiting, loss of smell and taste?
- 2. Have you or your child been exposed to anyone with COVID-19?
- 3. Does anyone in your household have symptoms of COVID-19 or has anyone in your household been exposed to COVID-19?
- 4. Has anyone in your family/household travelled/returned to Bermuda in the last 14 days?

If you or your child has a "yes" response to any of the questions above, then your child should stay at home and not attend the school for 14 days from symptom onset and until he/she is no longer feeling unwell. You must also contact the school to explain the reason for the absence.

If your child has a "yes" response to question #1, meaning that he or she has symptoms of COVID-19, you should consult your child's medical doctor or physician.

Additionally, if your child has a fever when his/her temperature is taken at the school, he/she will not be able to enter the school building.

The safety of students, staff, parents and other members of households and families is paramount.

Parents and guardians are required to follow this process daily as persons are required to conduct themselves in such a manner as not to expose another person to infection.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Kalmar Richards

Commissioner of Education

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