

## COVID-19 Update - March 25, 2021

Good afternoon Montcrest families,

Following my video at the start of the week, I wanted to provide you with some updates from my conversation with Toronto Public Health.

### **Is a stomach ache a symptom that should send or keep a child home for testing?**

**Yes.** Montcrest has classified this appropriately. If this is your child's complaint and you go to get tested, you would select nausea or a similar symptom on the checklist. A stomach ache could be many things and/or a precursor to other symptoms including diarrhea or vomiting and should be treated as a single symptom. This is particularly important as doctors don't yet know the symptoms of all of the variants, which are now more prevalent than the original virus.

### **Do we have to get a COVID-19 test if our Doctor says it's not COVID-19.**

**Yes.** The only way to know something isn't COVID-19 is to get a test for it. That said, if your child has a pre-existing condition or your doctor has provided an alternative diagnosis for something, you can complete the TPH Attestation form and return it to your Head of School. This form clearly states that you have spoken with a Doctor and there is an alternative diagnosis. Your child must still be symptom free and have been improving for 24 hours in order to return to school.

### **Will we be adding recess equipment?**

**Not at this time.** TPH agrees that this is not advisable. Students must be masked when distance cannot be ensured, (unstructured times like recess) and should not be doing high intensity activity that would require them to remove their masks. Mask breaks are scheduled for the students throughout the day when distancing can be overseen.



**This past week siblings at other schools have been sent home. Does their sibling attending Montcrest have to stay home, too?**

**In short, it depends.** The easiest way to explain it is if TPH has directed a cohort to stay home, self-isolate and get tested then all siblings and family members must do the same.

When a school self selects to send a cohort home out of caution while awaiting guidance from TPH, siblings can technically attend their own school (provided everyone in the house is symptom free and has not been a close contact of an infected individual). As a cautionary measure, many of you are choosing to stay home to await further direction from your other school. We absolutely support this decision and have MGM in place for your child.

**Please be reminded of our COVID-19 positive result protocol.**

If you or any of your children (at Montcrest or another school) receive a positive test result or are informed that you are a close contact of someone who has received a positive test result:

1. **Stay Home**
2. **Contact Erin Corbett** at 416-262-1180 (text or call) or email [ecorbett@montcrest.ca](mailto:ecorbett@montcrest.ca)
3. **Follow the guidance of TPH**

**If you are unsure about your particular circumstance, please reach out to me anytime.** I have a rolodex of scenarios seared in my brain and if I can't put my finger on yours right away, I will know where to find it.

When in doubt, we have MGM available to support your children while we work things out. Not ideal we know, but certainly an acceptable short term solution.

Thank you for your continued support of our Health and Safety protocols. I am here for anything you need as we continue to respond to the demands of this pandemic.

Take care,  
Erin