



School Services in a Pandemic: FAQs

Question 1) Can we send the COVID-19 screening questions via email to parents the night before and they reply by the next day before we see students (assuming consent to communicate via email)? This may alleviate the barrier if allowed.

Answer: The Ministry of Health recommends that the active COVID-19 screening tool be administered by telephone with the parents. If communication by telephone is not successful, alternatives such as email are an option. Keep in mind that the questions on the COVID-19 screen are the bare minimum set of questions to help prevent transmission of infection and serve to remind parents about the symptoms of the corona virus. They need to be accompanied by a [point of care risk assessment](#) where you are using your clinical judgement to ask for additional information. If you are contacting parents by email, ask them to add relevant details which need to be addressed.

The COVID-19 self-screen can be completed by the parent on behalf of the student, and saved in PDF format, which includes a date and time of administration. This can be sent by email to the SLP or audiologist in a safe and secure manner.

Question 2) If a communicative disorder assistant (CDA) is seeing students individually, do they also need to carry out the COVID-19 screen ahead of the session?

Answer: Yes, because the student was referred for speech-language pathology or audiology services. SLPs and audiologists must ensure that the COVID-19 screen is carried out before support personnel, such as CDAs, withdraw the student from the classroom for 1:1 in-person intervention. The COVID-19 screen can be carried out by regulated and/or unregulated professionals.

All school employees, including CDAs, will be expected to follow the infection prevention and control measures set by the school board. CDAs will also be required to have the health and safety training and access to the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

Question 3) When obtaining consent should we include information about visiting multiple schools?

Answer: Yes, in the interests of transparency and obtaining informed consent, you can include information about visiting multiple schools. The consent conversation will also include all of the infection prevention and control measures which you are following when going from school to school such as:

- Keeping the number of schools visited in one day to a minimum
- Wearing appropriate PPE
- Maintaining the required physical distance, if possible
- Cleaning and disinfecting any equipment or materials used
- Reviewing the school board websites for the latest information regarding COVID-19