

# Omicron, School, and Functional Closures

We hope this guide helps you to think about your family's unique situation, and supports you to make decisions about your family's safety and child's education during these complex times. You will find questions to prompt your reflection, some steps that you can take, and conversations you can have. The names of the plans reflect the options of learning at home or learning at school, they are not official names of any specific plan.



# Omicron and School

## A DECISION MAKING GUIDE

### FIRST...

- Decide your family's level of acceptable risk. What, if any, are the health considerations of your family?
- What is your child's support plan? What does your child need to be supported?
- How much time can you invest on school work at home?
- How is your current situation working for your family?
- What are the social-emotional needs of your child?
- How does your child feel about going back to school and/or staying at home?

### PLANS

#### Learning at Home Plan

- Educational plan based on curricular outcomes/IEP/SLP goals. What would be the focus?
- Who are the school staff that will stay connected with the family?
- What supports are needed and how could they be provided?
  - Educational Assistant
  - Self-regulation
  - Technology
  - Mental health
  - Occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech language pathology
  - Assessment

#### In-School Learning Plan

- Educational plan based on curricular outcomes/IEP/SLP goals. What is the focus?
- What supports are needed and how will they be provided? (Educational Assistant, self-regulation, technology, mental health, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech language pathology, and assessment)
- What supports will be in place to support my child's health and safety? (Go to section "Things to Consider")

START HERE

Can your child continue learning from home?

YES

**Collaborative conversation**  
between families and school team about a **Learning at Home Plan**

NO

Can you work from home/stay home with your child? Can your child stay home unsupervised?

YES

NO

Will your child go to school?

YES

NO

**Collaborative conversation**  
between families and school team about a **In-School Learning Plan**  
(part time or full time)

YES

Do you have access to childcare?

NO

**Collaborative conversation**  
between families and school team about a **Learning at Home Plan**

**Collaborative conversation**  
between families and school team about a **In-School Learning Plan**

Connect with school, district staff, community orgs. or the Ministry of Children and Family Development for child care options.

# THINGS TO CONSIDER

**If your child is attending In-School Learning (part time or full time), ask your school about priorities in case of staff shortages or functional closures:**

- Will there be continuity of learning offered? What will it look like?
- Will it meet the safety level that your family needs?
- What does safe look like for your child?
- Will classes be combined?
- Who will be on your child's support team?
- If there are staff rotations due to sickness, how will continuity and communication relay be ensured to have the least disruption in routines?
- What will the day look like?
- Who will be at school that my child knows? (Classmates, support staff, teachers)
- What emergency/safety plans will be in place?

## What is your plan if your child is sick and needs to stay home?

- Continuity of learning
- Respite or network of support
- Other family members' health risk
- How would you organize your own work? What conversations would you need to have with your employer?
- Family wellness
- Food security

## Collaborative Conversations

These are conversations that happen between families and school teams to explore options that would meet a student's individual needs and consider the school's situation. They could include talking about the family's unique situation at school, health and safety considerations, community supports that could be explored, etc. Ideally, people would proactively talk about different challenges and scenarios, and would find options that are possible for everyone involved.

