## **Doctors' COVID Tips for Back-to-School**

## What can parents do?

- Keep kids home if they have symptoms. Follow public health guidance about screening, testing and isolation.
- 2. Make masks comfortable. Ensure your children have comfortable masks they like, and practice putting them on and taking them off.
- 3. Reinforce the basics. Frequent hand hygiene, physical distancing when possible, safe snacks and lunches.
- 4. Support children's mental well-being. Stay positive. Avoid social isolation. Focus on what you can control. Limit the amount of COVID news during family time.
- 5. Get vaccinated. Everyone in your household should get vaccinated if they are eligible. This also helps protect kids under age 12.

## What should schools do?

- 1. Reinforce the basics, including frequent hand hygiene, symptom screening, proper mask wearing.
- 2. Support vaccination for teachers, staff and eligible students.
- 3. Follow ventilation guidelines for an added layer of protection
- 4. Promote physical distancing whenever possible, and avoid congestion in common areas.
- 5. Be ready to change precautions, as the level of transmission changes in the community.

Watch the full town hall at DoctorsManitoba.ca/school to hear answers from physicians to common questions.



