PRESENTATION 1

COVID-19 Transmission:
Refresher for School and Child Care Settings

Michelle Science, MD, MSc, FRCPC, IPAC Physician, Public Health Ontario
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Objectives

• To review how the virus that causes COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) is spread and measures to reduce the risk of spread

• To review variants of concerns (VOCs) and implications for infection prevention and control (IPAC) in schools and child care settings
How Do Respiratory Viruses Spread?
Droplet Transmission
Contact Transmission
Airborne Transmission
How Does SARS-CoV-2 Virus Spread?

• Primarily occurs by close, unprotected contact (whether by droplets or aerosols)

• Sometimes, COVID-19 can be spread through direct contact by touching a person who is ill or a surface that has been touched or sneezed on by an infectious person with COVID-19

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How Can I Reduce the Risk of Acquiring COVID-19?
Preventing Transmission from Droplets and Aerosols

- Wear a mask
- Practice respiratory etiquette
- Stay 2 m (6 feet) away from others
- Optimize ventilation by increasing outdoor air
Preventing Transmission from Contact

- Clean your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR)
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth (especially with unwashed hands)
- Clean surfaces, especially those considered high-touch (door handles, lights, handrails)
How Do Variants of Concern (VOC) Affect Transmission?
Variants of Concern (VOCs)

• Variants are viruses that have changed or mutated. These virus changes have clinical or public health impact (e.g. increases spread, increases disease severity).

• VOCs identified globally and in Ontario include:
  • B.1.1.7 variant first identified the UK
  • B.1.351 variant first identified in South Africa
  • P.1 variant first identified in Brazil
  • B.1.617 variant first identified in India

• Other mutations/variants have emerged, will continue to emerge and evidence about their impact will need close and ongoing monitoring
Do I Need to Do Anything Differently because of the VOCs?

• No, you don’t need to do anything differently because of the VOCs.
• While new VOCs are more transmissible, their mode of transmission has not changed. Recommended preventative measures (e.g. hand hygiene, physical distancing) remain the same, they just need to be applied consistently.
For More Information ....

Public Health Ontario Resources:

• School and COVID-19
• What We Know So Far About... Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
• COVID-19 Variants of Concern (VOCs)
How did we do?

Your feedback is important to us. Please provide your input by clicking on the survey button. Thank you!
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communications@oahpp.ca

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