

## NDDoH Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools - Factsheet

### [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Kindergarten \(K\)-12 Schools.](#)

The CDC states children and adolescents' benefit from in-person learning, and a safe return to in person learning is a **priority** for the upcoming academic year. The CDC recommends the following measures to reduce the potential transmission of COVID-19 in K-12 schools:

#### Physical Distancing

- At least **6 feet of physical distance** between students and teachers/staff, teachers/staff who are **NOT fully vaccinated**.
- At least **3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms**, combined with **indoor mask wearing** by people who are **NOT fully vaccinated**.
- **Mask Use** CDC recommends universal indoor use of a well-fitting mask by all students (ages 2 years and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.
- In a [CDC Order](#), passengers and drivers **MUST wear a well-fitting mask** on school buses operated by public and private school systems. Schools should make masks available to students and staff for each bus ride.

#### Layered Prevention Strategies

- CDC highlighted, if maintaining physical spacing would prevent schools from fully reopening, they should rely on a [combination of layered prevention strategies](#) such as indoor masking, screening testing, cohorting, improved ventilation, handwashing and covering coughs and sneezes, staying home when sick with symptoms of infectious illness including COVID-19, and regular cleaning to help reduce transmission risk.
- Schools should also **monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of outbreaks** to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies (e.g., physical distancing, screening testing).
- If schools decide to remove prevention strategies in schools based on **local conditions**, they should **remove them one at a time** and monitor closely (with adequate testing) for any increases in COVID-19 cases before removing the next prevention strategy.

#### COVID-19 Vaccination

- Everyone **5 years of age and older** is now [eligible to get a COVID-19 vaccination](#).
- CDC strongly urges schools to [promote vaccination for eligible individuals](#), which it called "the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic."
- Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports.

#### Planning and Preparing

- Each school district and school should have an [Emergency Operations Plan \(EOP\)](#) in place to protect students, teachers, staff and families from the spread of COVID-19 for the upcoming school year.

For additional resources please see: [Schools | Child Care | Universities | Department of Health \(nd.gov\)](#)