

Northwestern R-I School District

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

Considerations and Recommendations for Northwestern R-I Schools

The Northwestern R-I School District, in partnership with the Chariton County Department of Public Health, has developed guidance to support districts and communities in determining their plans and strategies for reopening schools.

This approach is built upon the guidance and recommendations of health officials; it is strongly aligned to the reopening guidelines that have been provided by our state and federal leaders; and it's designed to help districts prioritize the health and safety of students and teachers as they open school buildings and deliver instruction for the 2020-2021 school year.

The Northwestern R-I School District plan focuses heavily on the health and physical requirements necessary for reopening school buildings. The Northwestern R-I School District will continue to provide guidance and recommendations to schools on navigating the academic, social, and emotional effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on students and employees.

Definitions

Face Coverings



Recommendations regarding face coverings differ based on the level of community spread and can be found throughout this document. Information should be provided to staff, students, and families on proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings. Any policy regarding face coverings should be sensitive to the needs of students and staff with medical issues that make the wearing of a face covering inadvisable.
> [CDC Guidance](#)

Hand Sanitizer



Hand sanitizers should contain at least 60% alcohol and only used with staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer. Hand soap should be used for younger children.
> [CDC Guidance](#)

Clean/Disinfect



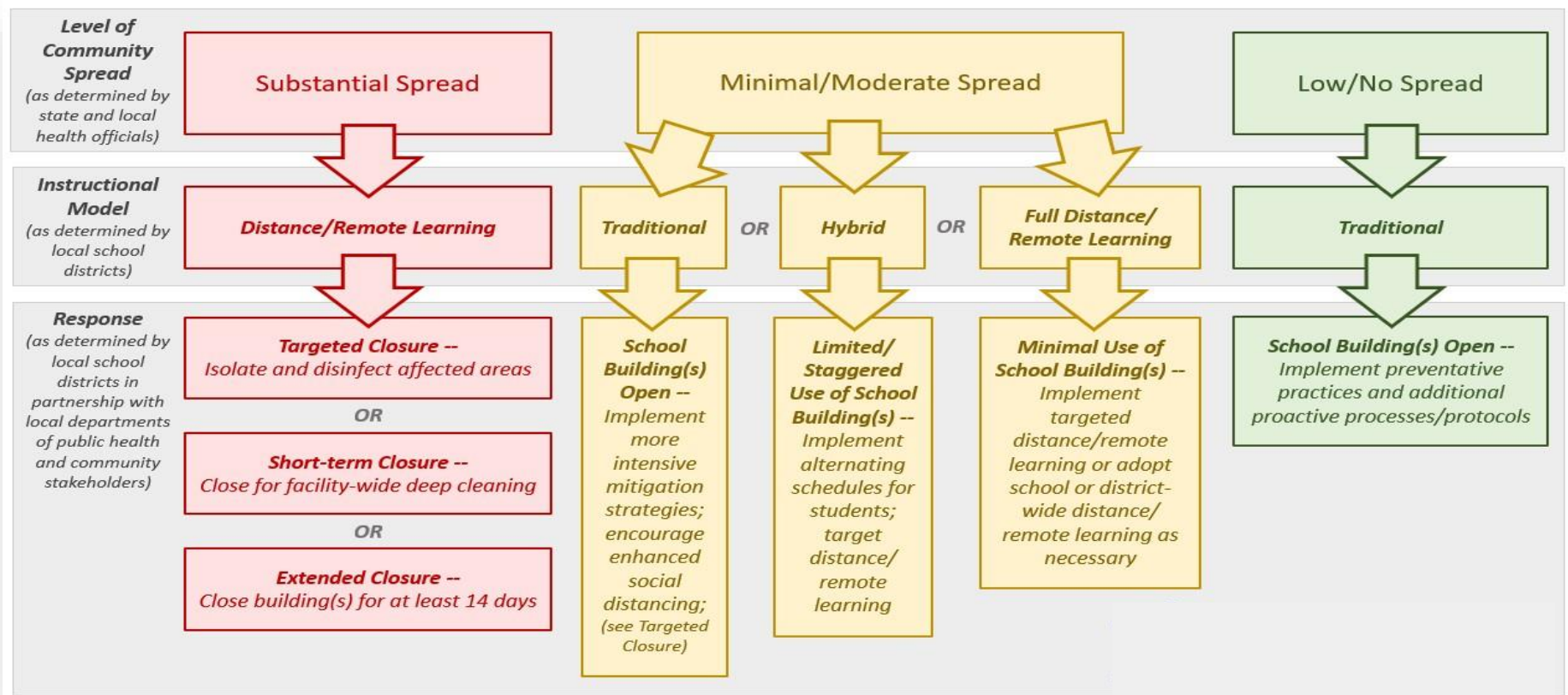
Ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants and keep out of reach of children.
> [CDC Guidance](#)

Northwestern R-I School District

LEVEL OF COMMUNITY SPREAD (AS DETERMINED BY STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIALS)

Substantial Spread	Minimal/Moderate Spread	Low/No Spread
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordinate with local and state DPH health officials ● Participate in contact tracing efforts and specimen collection efforts as directed by local health officials (to the extent feasible) ● Schools that are closed, remain closed. Implement distance/remote learning. ● Close off affected areas and if possible, wait 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. ● Consider ways to accommodate needs of children, teachers/staff, and families at higher risk for severe illness (see <i>Protecting Vulnerable Populations</i> for considerations) <p>For additional guidance on addressing community spread, see the CDC's Considerations for Schools</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish and maintain communication with local and state DPH health officials ● Participate in contact tracing efforts and specimen collection efforts. ● Implement enhanced social distancing measures (see <i>Transitioning, Large Group Gatherings, and Teaching and Learning</i>) ● Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols ● Establish a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school (see <i>When a Child, Staff Member, or Visitor Becomes Sick at School</i>) ● Isolate and deep clean impacted classrooms and spaces ● Consider ways to accommodate needs of children, teachers/staff, and families at higher risk for severe illness (see <i>Protecting Vulnerable Populations</i> for considerations) ● Students must be fever free without medication for 72 hours before returning to school <p><i>Northwestern R-I Schools have the authority and flexibility to close school buildings and utilize distance/remote learning as needed.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contact tracing will no longer take place at school. Close contacts from the school environment will no longer be removed from school. ● Face coverings will be allowed but not required. ● Students who test positive for COVID-19 will still be recommended to follow current CDC Guidance ● Students who are ill will be sent home and not allowed to return until they are fever free (less than 100.4) for twenty-four hours. ● Please continue to self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 and take the appropriate precautions.

Northwestern R-I Schools Flowchart



Northwestern R-I COVID Plan


Level of Community Spread (as determined by state and local health officials)

Practicing Prevention



	<p style="text-align: center;">Substantial Spread RECOMMENDATIONS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Minimal/Moderate Spread RECOMMENDATIONS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Low/No Spread RECOMMENDATIONS</p>
<p>Practicing Prevention</p>	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use social media and other communications to inform parents, students, and staff about COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures, good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols Encourage COVID-19 testing <p>CDC Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to Protect Yourself and Others COVID-19 Symptoms COVID-19 and Children Communication Tools 	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs, and face coverings Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, and no-touch trash cans in all bathrooms, classrooms, and frequently trafficked areas Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols. Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects after each use Provide masks and other appropriate PPE to staff Allow students and staff to bring hand sanitizer and face masks/coverings to use from home Take steps to ensure all water systems and features are safe Turn off water fountains and only use automatic bottle filling stations Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, as long as this does not pose a safety or health risk to students or staff Conduct deep cleaning of schools prior to students/staff returning; schedule additional cleanings during weekends or school holidays/breaks <p>CDC Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Schools Guidance for Reopening Buildings After Prolonged Shutdown 	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures such as handwashing, covering coughs (coughing in elbow), using tissues, and using face coverings Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, and no-touch trash cans in all bathrooms, classrooms, and frequently trafficked areas Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols. Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects after each use Allow students and staff to bring hand sanitizer and face masks/coverings to use from home Allow staff to wear face masks/covering, and other appropriate PPE as desired Take steps to ensure all water systems and features are safe Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, as long as this does not pose a safety or health risk to students or staff Conduct deep cleaning of schools prior to students/staff returning; schedule periodic cleanings during weekends or school holidays/breaks (to the extent practicable)

Level of Community Spread (as determined by state and local health officials)

	<p style="text-align: center;">Substantial Spread RECOMMENDATIONS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Minimal/Moderate Spread RECOMMENDATIONS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Low/No Spread RECOMMENDATIONS</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Transporting Students</p> 	<p>School buildings are closed; buses used to deliver meals to students and families</p> <p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce contact by delivering a week's worth of meals during a designated time (ex: delivering a week's worth of meals every Monday)² <p>²Subject to future USDA meal waiver approval</p>	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide hand sanitizer for students and bus drivers Provide face masks for bus drivers; allow students to wear face masks/coverings Screen students and bus drivers for symptoms of illness and utilize spaced seating (to the extent practicable) Eliminate field trips Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces on the bus at least daily Establish protocols for bus stops, loading/unloading students to minimize congregation of children from different households Continue to use parent pick up line at the back entrance of high school after school <p>CDC Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What Bus Operators Need to Know 	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing hand sanitizer for students and bus drivers Allowing bus drivers and students to wear face masks/coverings Inspecting buses prior to students returning and as part of a regular rotation Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces on the bus at least daily Airing out buses when not in use <p>There will be a pick up line for parents at the back entrance of the high school (north entrance). Continue to drop off students in front of school in the mornings.</p>

Level of Community Spread (as determined by state and local health officials)

Substantial Spread

RECOMMENDATIONS

Minimal/Moderate Spread

RECOMMENDATIONS

Low/No Spread

RECOMMENDATIONS

Entering School Buildings³



³*School Calendars: Local school districts have authority over school calendars – meaning they have full authority to set start and end dates, holidays/breaks, and school hours, provided instructional requirements are met.*

School buildings are closed; districts should require only that *essential staff* report in-person to carry out functions that are *absolutely necessary*.

District/School Considerations:

- District/school leaders must remain vigilant and purposeful as they determine roles, responsibilities, and reporting requirements for staff, refraining from blanket reporting requirements
- District/school leaders should leverage virtual tools and platforms wherever possible to conduct essential business and keep in-person reporting to an absolute minimum during school closures

District/School Considerations:

- Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols.
- Establish a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school (see *When a Child, Staff Member, or Visitor Becomes Sick at School*)
- Mark spaced lines to enter the building and designate entrance and exit flow paths
- Screen students and staff (to the extent practicable):
 - Visual check for symptoms and temperature scan if needed
 - Isolate and send home if internal temperature over 100.4°F (38°C)
 - Consider safety and privacy concerns (confidentiality should be maintained)
- Establish a protocol for visitors: calling the front office before entering, screening visitors, requesting use of face coverings/masks, etc. Restrict nonessential visitors and volunteers.
- Establish a protocol for student pick/drop up: staggered entry and release (by grade, class, or bus numbers), marked spacing for pickup



District/School Considerations:

- Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:
 - Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff
 - Limit unnecessary congregations of students and staff
 - Post signage in classrooms, hallways, and entrances to communicate how to stop the spread. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols
 - Establish a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school (see *When a Child, Staff Member, or Visitor Becomes Sick at School*)



American Health Care Association

- [COVID-19 Screening Checklist for Visitors](#)

Level of Community Spread (as determined by state and local health officials)

	<p style="text-align: center;">Substantial Spread RECOMMENDATIONS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Minimal/Moderate Spread RECOMMENDATIONS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Low/No Spread RECOMMENDATIONS</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Serving Meals</p> 	<p>School buildings are closed. District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Practice established social distancing protocols to the greatest extent practicable ● Provide PPE to participating staff ● Food service will be provided to students in need throughout the closure ● Distribute printed instructional packets/materials and district/school communications along with meals 	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Allow student hand washing before and after meal service ● Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff ● Use disposable plates, utensils, etc. ● Mark spaced lines to enter the cafeteria and serving lines (to the extent practicable); designate entrances and exit flow paths; stagger use ● Conduct cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day <p>Alternative Serving Models: (Serving methods are subject to change depending on current situation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Serving meals in classrooms ● Serving meals in cafeterias with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spaced serving lines (marked on floors) ○ Spaced seating (utilize outdoor space as practicable and appropriate) ○ Longer meal periods for more staggered meal delivery (utilizing state seat time waiver to extend meal periods) ○ Consider pre-packaged boxes or bags for each student instead of traditional serving lines. Avoid sharing of foods and utensils. 	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Providing hand sanitizer for students and staff ○ Allowing students and staff to wear face masks/coverings while in large group gatherings ○ Conducting cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day
<p style="text-align: center;">Transitioning</p> 	<p>School buildings are closed.</p>	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Limit mixing between groups (to the extent practicable) ● For class changes and other transitions throughout the school day: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide additional time for transitions (utilizing state seat time waiver to extend transition period) ○ Designate areas of the hallway (i.e. lanes) as flow paths to keep students separated students to minimize congregation of students ○ Plan staggered class (ex: by hall, odd/even room numbers, grade/ discipline) changes to decrease number of students in hallways at one time 	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Allowing students and staff to wear face masks/coverings while in large group gatherings ○ Conducting cleaning of hallways and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day ○ Designating areas of the hallway (i.e. lanes) to walk to keep students separated (to the extent practicable)

Level of Community Spread (as determined by state and local health officials)

	<p style="text-align: center;">Substantial Spread RECOMMENDATIONS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Minimal/Moderate Spread RECOMMENDATIONS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Low/No Spread RECOMMENDATIONS</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Conducting Large Group Gatherings</p> 	<p>School buildings are closed.</p> <p>Abide by the maximum number of people allowed to congregate as defined by the Governor’s current statewide Executive Order</p>	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abide by the maximum number of people allowed to congregate as defined by the Governor’s current statewide Executive Order Discourage the congregation of students in parking lots and common areas Stagger the schedule for large group gatherings (i.e. recess and school meals) Identify and utilize large spaces (i.e. gymnasiums, auditoriums, outside spaces – as weather permits) for social distancing Follow Missouri State High School Athletics Association guidelines for sporting events and practices 	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing hand sanitizer for students and staff Allowing students and staff to wear face masks/coverings Limiting unnecessary congregations of students and staff Follow Missouri State High School Athletics Association guidelines for sporting events and practices
<p style="text-align: center;">Supporting Teaching and Learning</p> 	<p>School buildings are closed. District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a robust Distance Learning Plan Distribute printed instructional packets/ materials and district/school communications along with meals; designate and communicate collection/drop off points Northwestern R-I Schools will use the Alternative Methods of Instruction, which will be developed. Educator’s Guide to Safe and Effective Video Conferencing (Education Week) 	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <p>Traditional Instructional Model</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Schools can deliver traditional instruction under Minimal/Moderate Spread by implementing the recommendations outlined in this guidance. District or school-wide distance/remote learning is allowable and a local decision.</i> Use the master schedule to balance class numbers as much as possible – remove unused desks and furniture in classrooms; maximize social distancing (to the extent practicable) Limit physical interaction through partner or group work Establish distance between the teacher’s desk/board and students’ desks Identify and utilize large spaces (i.e. gymnasiums, auditoriums, outside spaces – as weather permits) for social distancing Establish and implement appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate with healthcare providers for guidance School nurse implements and monitors mitigation plans 	<p>District/School Considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing hand sanitizer for students and staff Conducting cleaning of classrooms and high-touch surfaces each day Social distancing in learning environment Establish an academic baseline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administer formative assessments toward the start of the school year Conduct meetings with teachers to identify where students are academically Establish and implement appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate with healthcare providers for guidance School nurse monitors mitigation plans

Level of Community Spread (as determined by state and local health officials)

Supporting Teaching and Learning (cont.)



<p style="text-align: center;">Substantial Spread</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMENDATIONS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Minimal/Moderate Spread</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMENDATIONS</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Low/No Spread</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMENDATIONS</p>
<p>Professional Learning for Teachers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making the Shift to Online Teaching and Learning • Supporting Students with Disabilities Online <p>American School Counselor Association</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Counseling During COVID-19: Online Lessons and Resources <p>School Library Media Specialists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Media Specialists Can Help During Crisis (School Library Journal) • Digital Resource Ideas (GLMA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Targeted Distance/Remote Learning</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Elementary Face-to-Face with Secondary Distance Learning:</i> Prioritize 6-12 or 9-12 for continuous distance learning while other students have access to face-to-face instruction spread out across unused schools and classrooms; using certification flexibility to relocate teachers as needed and allowable; see <i>Serving Meals</i> under <i>Substantial Spread</i> for preparing/delivering school meals for students who are remote learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target interventions and supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide additional instructional supports to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ students at-risk of not graduating on time ■ students with disabilities (compensatory services) ■ students who struggled in the prior distance/remote learning environment (i.e. early grades, English Learners, etc.) ■ other students identified as being behind academically by teachers and parents. ○ Identify essential concepts/skills grade levels and provide access to enrichment (fine arts, music, world language, CTAE, computer science, AP/IB, dual enrollment, physical education/play, STEM/STEAM, etc.) • Address learning loss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide extended learning opportunities through before/after school programs, Saturday school, etc. • Prepare for potential future distance/remote learning by increasing current blended learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop a digital learning plan ○ Integrate virtual learning practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ digitizing lessons ■ requiring a certain number of online assignments for each grading period ○ Provide virtual learning-specific professional learning for educators: ○ Schedule specific planned district-/school-wide digital learning days as part of the traditional school calendar <p>Return to School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roadmap for School Operations and Instruction

Level of Community Spread (as determined by state and local health officials)

Substantial Spread
RECOMMENDATIONS

Minimal/Moderate Spread
RECOMMENDATIONS

Low/No Spread
RECOMMENDATIONS

Protecting Vulnerable Populations¹



¹ **Vulnerable Populations** -- Elderly individuals and/or individuals with serious underlying health conditions, including high blood pressure, chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, asthma, and those whose immune system is compromised such as by chemotherapy for cancer and other conditions requiring such therapy.

School buildings are closed.
See *Entering School Buildings* for district/school staff guidance.
District/School Considerations:

- Recruit additional nurses, health care aides, and full-time substitute employees

National Association of School Nurses

- [Role of school nurses, providing care, and participating in return to school planning](#)

District/School Considerations:

- Offer vaccinations for educators, staff, students and eligible employees.
 - Supervised and implemented by the County Health Department
- Survey at-risk staff members to gauge their intentions in returning to work while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws
- Survey families with vulnerable children to gauge their intentions in returning to a traditional school setting while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws
- Provide remote/distance learning opportunities for vulnerable student populations in consultation with parents and public health officials
- Consult with local board attorneys and district human resources officials to offer special accommodations (such as an alternative teaching assignment) for personnel who are members of vulnerable populations
- Adhere to FERPA and HIPPA requirements
- Adhere to state and federal employment law and extended

District/School Considerations:

- Offer vaccinations for educators, staff, students and eligible employees.
 - Supervised and implemented by the County Health Department
- Implement standard operating procedures while taking preventative measures such as:
 - Establish a point-of-contact with the local health department
 - Identify local COVID-19 testing sites
 - Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff
 - Provide PPE to vulnerable students and staff as appropriate
 - Allow medically vulnerable students to complete their coursework virtually
 - Allow vulnerable students and staff to wear PPE throughout the school day (to the extent practicable)
 - Establish a process for regular check-ins with vulnerable students and staff
 - Allow an early transition for vulnerable students to go to classes
 - Limit large group gatherings/ Interactions for vulnerable students and staff

When a Child, Staff Member, or Visitor Becomes Sick at School



District/School Considerations:

- Work with school administrators, school nurses, and other healthcare providers to identify an isolation room or area to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-like symptoms.
- School nurses and other healthcare providers should use *Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions* when caring for sick people. See: *What Healthcare Personnel Should Know About Caring for Patients with Confirmed or Possible COVID19 Infection*
- Establish procedures for safely transporting anyone who is sick home or to a healthcare facility.
- Notify local health officials, staff, and families immediately of a possible case while maintaining confidentiality consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other applicable federal and state privacy laws.
- Close off areas used by a sick person and do not use before cleaning and disinfection. Wait 24 hours before you clean and disinfect. If it is not possible to wait 24 hours, wait as long as possible. Ensure safe and correct application of disinfectants and keep disinfectant products away from children.
- Advise sick staff members and children not to return until they have met state DPH criteria to discontinue home isolation
- Inform those who have had close contact to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay home and follow state DPH guidance if symptoms develop. If a person does not have symptoms, follow appropriate state DPH guidance for home quarantine.

CDC Guidance

- [Symptoms of Coronavirus](#)
- [What Healthcare Personnel Should Know About Caring for Patients with Confirmed or Possible COVID-19 Infection](#)
- [Standard Precautions](#)
- [Transmission-based Precautions](#)

For additional information, go to:

[Department of Public Health](#)

*The Northwestern R-I plan is an adaptation of Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools Considerations and Recommendations for Georgia's Schools
| Georgia Department of Education and Georgia Department of Public Health*