

Mitigation Strategies

Practicing Prevention and Responding to COVID-19 in K-12 Schools

Levels are aligned to DPH's "Return to School Guidelines After COVID-19 Illness or Exposure" issued on June 11, 2020

Temporary Closure(s)	Enhanced Mitigation Measures	Preventive Practices
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult with local and state DPH health officials Report closures to GaDOE Participate in contact tracing efforts and specimen collection efforts as directed by local health officials (to the extent feasible) Close off affected areas and if possible, wait 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting Determine partial or total closure by evaluating size and characteristics of student and staff populations, setting characteristics and environmental factors that affect transmission, increased absenteeism, and trends of suspected/confirmed cases of COVID-19 (see Considerations for Temporary Closures) Consider ways to accommodate needs of children, teachers/staff, and families at higher risk for severe illness (see Protecting Vulnerable Populations for considerations) 	<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 as directed by local health officials (to the extent feasible) Implement enhanced social distancing measures (see Positioning, Large Group Gatherings, and Teaching and Learning) 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) 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 Protecting Vulnerable Populations for considerations) 	<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 as directed by local health officials (to the extent feasible) 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) Consider ways to accommodate needs of children, teachers/staff, and families at higher risk for severe illness (see Protecting Vulnerable Populations for considerations)

For additional guidance, see the [CDC's Considerations for Schools](#)

Districts have the authority and flexibility to close school buildings and utilize distance/remote learning as needed

DPH DOES NOT recommend using a test-based strategy for returning to school for children or adults (2 negative tests at least 24 hours apart) after COVID-19 infection. CDC has reported prolonged PCR positive test results without evidence of infectiousness. Although persons may have PCR positive tests for up to 6 weeks, it remains unknown whether these PCR-positive results represent the presence of infectious virus. At this time, PCR positive specimens capable of producing disease have not been isolated more than 9 days after onset of illness.

Recommendations

Face Coverings



Per the Governor's Executive Order, the use of face coverings/masks is not mandated but is strongly recommended, particularly in settings where social distancing is difficult to accomplish (i.e. during hallway transitions, drop-off/pick-up, etc.). 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](#)

Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools



Considerations and Recommendations for Georgia's Schools

The Georgia Department of Education, in partnership with the Georgia Department of Public Health, has developed guidance to support districts and communities in determining their plans and strategies for reopening schools. Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools provides a tiered approach with clear, actionable steps that are achievable before students and employees return to school buildings, along with guidance that is applicable throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

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.

Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools focuses heavily on the health and physical requirements necessary for reopening school buildings. The Georgia Department of Education will continue to provide guidance and recommendations to districts and schools on navigating the academic, social, and emotional effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on students and employees.

Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools provides considerations, recommendations, and best practices to ensure a safe and successful 2020-2021 school year. This guidance is not mandated or state required. Local school districts have the authority and flexibility to meet their individual needs and be responsive to their communities. School leaders should engage and communicate with their students, staff, and communities in the development and implementation of their plans.

Practicing Prevention and Responding to COVID-19 in K-12 Schools

- Screening
- Conducting Large Group Gatherings
- Practicing Prevention
- Supporting Teaching and Learning
- Transporting Students
- Protecting Vulnerable Populations
- Entering School Buildings
- When a Child, Staff Member or Visitor Becomes Sick at School
- Serving Meals





RESET FILTERS

Teacher Pipeline

INFORMATION

ENDORSEMENTS



District
All

Teacher Prep Provider Name
All

P-20
All

Use the below slicers to filter the report by content area and/or grade band.

Content Area
All

Grade Band
 Select all
 (4-8)
 (6-12)
 (P-12)
 (P-5)

STEM/STEAM
 STEAM
 STEM

