

Guidance to follow during Covid-19 pandemic

Remain open with enhanced social distancing measures and for children who live in the local geographic area only.

Intensify cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation

- [Clean and disinfect](#) frequently touched surfaces within the school and on school buses at least daily (e.g., playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains) as well as shared objects (e.g., toys, games, art supplies) between uses.
- To clean and disinfect school buses, see [guidance for bus transit operators](#).
- Ensure [safe and correct application](#) of disinfectants and keep products away from children. Review the [Responsible Purchasing Network recommendations on safer disinfectants](#).
- Develop a plan for safely using cleaner, sanitizer & disinfectant guidance in this 4-page graphic [Fact Sheet](#) from OSHA.
- Only high touch surfaces need disinfecting, not the air. Increase ventilation indoors. No spraying in the air, misting, or fogging.
- Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible such as by opening windows and doors. Do not open windows and doors if they pose a safety or health risk (such as allowing pollens in or exacerbating asthma symptoms) risk to children using the facility.
- Take steps to [ensure that all water systems](#) and features (for example, drinking fountains, decorative fountains) are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown to minimize the risk of [Legionnaires' disease](#) and other diseases associated with water.

Promote social distancing

- Ensure that student and staff groupings are as static as possible by having the same group of children stay with the same staff – all day for young children, and as much as possible for older children.
- Restrict mixing between groups.
- Cancel all field trips, intergroup events, and extracurricular activities.
- Limit gatherings, events, and extracurricular activities to those that can maintain social distancing, support proper hand hygiene, and restrict attendance of those from higher transmission areas.
- Restrict nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving other groups at the same time.

Classroom structure and communal spaces

- Space seating/desks to at least six feet apart. Space bedding (head-to-toe positioning) to six feet apart, if possible.

- Turn desks to face in the same direction (rather than facing each other), or have students sit on only one side of tables, spaced apart.
- Provide physical guides, such as tape on floors and signs on walls, to remain at least 6 feet apart in lines and at other times. When possible create “one way routes” in hallways.
- Keep communal use spaces closed, such as game rooms or dining halls, if possible; if this is not possible, stagger use and [disinfect](#) in between uses.
- If a cafeteria or group dining room is typically used, serve meals in classrooms instead. Serve individually plated meals, limit the use of shared serving utensils and ensure the safety of children with [food allergies](#).
- Add physical barriers, such as plastic flexible screens, in situations when individuals cannot be at least 6 feet apart.

Arrival and departure from school & camp

- Stagger arrival and drop-off times or locations, or put in place other protocols to limit close contact with parents or caregivers as much as possible.
- Create social distance between children on school buses (for example, seating children one child per seat, every other row) where possible.
- Put in place other protocols to limit close contact with other parents or caregivers as much as possible.

Structured association groups

- Consider keeping classes together to include the same group of children each day, and consider keeping the same child care providers with the same group each day.
- Allow minimal mixing between groups. Limit gatherings, events, and extracurricular activities to those that can maintain social distancing, support proper hand hygiene, and restrict attendance of those from higher transmission areas.

Additional concepts

- Consider limiting nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving other groups. Restrict attendance of those from higher transmission areas.