

CDC Updated Statement on Specific Guidance for Schools 3.12.2020

<https://www.google.com/search?q=CDC+statement+on+school+closings&aq=chrome.0.69i59j69i57j0l3j69i60l3.2665j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

Key Points

Three categories of recommendations for schools (including preschools) and day care, public and private.

- I. Preparedness Phase- (plan and prepare) NO community spread**
 1. Encourage healthy practices for staff and children (handwashing, coughing/sneezing into elbow, stay home with symptoms).
 2. Review, update and implement an emergency operation plan.
 3. Develop and test a communication plan with families.
 4. Intensify cleaning and disinfection efforts.
 5. Consider postponing non-critical gatherings and events.
 6. Establish procedures for students and staff who are sick.
- II. Minimal to Moderate Community Spread**
 1. All of the above AND
 2. Coordinate with local health officials.
 3. Implement social distancing strategies (that may be difficult in day care and preschool settings).
 4. Stagger arrival, dismissal and lunch times.
- III. Substantial Community Spread**
 1. All of the above AND
 2. Consider closing school/program for MORE THAN TWO WEEKS.
 3. Cancel all school events.
- IV. Confirmed case at the school or program**
 1. All of the above AND
 2. Dismiss students and staff for 2-5 days until local health officials can provide specific advice.
 3. Cancel all school events.
 4. Encourage social distancing.
 5. Communicate accurate, reliable information and maintain confidentiality.
 6. Clean and disinfect thoroughly. Open doors and windows, wait 24 hours, use EPA-registered disinfectants or diluted household bleach (5 tablespoons bleach/1 gallon water).
 7. Make decision about extending school dismissal.
 8. Consider allowing teachers into the building after cleaning and disinfecting.
 9. Implement strategies to continue education and related supports.

General Information

1. All decisions should be made locally regarding dismissals, cancellation of events, and social distancing measures in collaboration with local health officials.
2. Schools should have a sequenced step plan in place to prevent spread of the virus.
3. School should share information regarding potential community spread and share with families.
4. School plans should be built on everyday practices- regular hand washing, coughing/sneezing into elbow, staying home when sick.

COVID-19 in Children

Children generally have mild symptoms, but a small percentage have more severe symptoms. Children with chronic medical conditions are likely to have more severe symptoms.