

K-12 SCHOOLS GUIDANCE

Utah Leads Together

For more information, visit: coronavirus.utah.gov/utahs-health-guidance-system/

As the community moves through phased risk guidance, we encourage you to continue to implement protective measures for your health and safety, and that of your family, school, and the community. Together we can slow the spread of COVID-19.

K-12 SCHOOLS PHASED GUIDELINES

In accordance with the Utah Leads Together [Phased Guidelines](#) for the General Public and Businesses to Maximize Public Health and Economic Reactivation:

- Public schools are open
- Local education agencies (school districts and charter schools also known as LEAs) will develop plans for reopening schools for in-person instruction
- Plans must be approved by the local school board or charter school governing board
- Plans must address the elements and minimum requirements contained in the Utah State Board of Education's (USBE) [Planning Requirements and Recommendations for K-12 School Openings](#) document

MANDATORY FACE COVERINGS

In accordance with the [Public Health Order](#) issued on July 17, 2020 by the Utah Department of Health:

- Each individual, including an employee, student, or visitor, on school property or on a school bus shall wear a face covering
- Exemptions:
 - Individuals maintaining a physical distance of at least six feet from any other individual when outdoors
 - Individuals eating or drinking while indoors while maintaining a 6-foot distance from others
 - A child who is younger than 3 years of age
 - A child who is three years old or older if the parent, guardian, or individual responsible for caring for the child cannot place the face covering safely on the child's face
 - An individual with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering, including an individual with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could cause harm or dangerously obstruct breathing, or who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance; a school may require an individual to provide a medical directive verifying a need for an exemption

MANDATORY FACE COVERINGS cont.

- An individual who is deaf or hard of hearing while communicating with others, or an individual who is communicating with an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication, in which case a face shield or alternative protection such as a plexiglass barrier should be used
- An individual who has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. section 1414, or an accommodation under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. section 794, that would necessitate exempting the individual from wearing a face covering; a local education agency shall document the accommodation in accordance with 34 CFR 104.33(a) as part of the student's IEP or Section 504 accommodation plan
- An individual who is receiving or providing a service involving the nose or face for which temporary removal of the face covering is necessary to perform the service
- [Appendix C: Face Covering Exceptions in K-12](#) outlines the following student exemptions for individuals participating in a school sponsored activity or physical education class:
 - Outdoor recess in elementary schools; cohorting, physical distancing, and hand hygiene before and after recess is promoted
 - A school-sponsored activity or physical education class if the individual cannot reasonably participate while wearing a face covering; each individual participating in a school-sponsored activity must complete a symptom assessment, verbally confirm they are free of COVID-19 symptoms before participating in each event, and attest to the fact they have not been in close contact (within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more) with a COVID-positive case in the last 14 days prior to participation; where possible, confirm participant temperature is below 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit
 - Institutions shall identify school-sponsored activities that are higher-risk and consider not holding the activities or introduce additional mitigating strategies; see the Utah State Board of Education School Reopening Planning Handbook for descriptions of higher-risk activities and tools and resources; the Handbook is located at <https://schools.utah.gov/file/5997f53e-85ca-4186-83fe-932385ea760a>
 - Institutions may also reference the Utah High School Activities Association's Return to Play guidelines for considerations to mitigate the risk of virus spread in school-sponsored activities; the guidelines are located at <https://uhsaa.org/SportsMed/UHSAA%20Return-to-Play%20Guidelines.pdf>
 - Spectators at school-sponsored activities or events should follow the [Guidance for Events, Cultural Arts & Entertainment](#)
 - This guidance may be modified based on data and milestone trends
- The order shall remain in effect until 11:59 pm December 31, 2020 unless otherwise modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded

PLANNING REQUIREMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS, USBE

In accordance with the Utah State Board of Education's (USBE) [Planning Requirements and Recommendations for K-12 School Openings](#):

- Local education agencies (LEAs) are required to develop comprehensive reopening plans that are approved by the local school board or charter school governing board in an open and public meeting and made available to the public on the local education agency's and each schools' websites by **August 1, 2020**
- Plans must address the following elements:
 - Repopulating Schools
 - Communication and Training
 - Accommodating Individual Circumstances (e.g. high-risk, personal decisions)
 - Enhanced Environment Hygiene & Safety
 - School Schedules
 - Implementation of Mitigation Actions in School Settings (e.g., Classrooms, Transitions, Office Spaces, Transportation, Restrooms, Cafeterias)
 - Apply a set of principles and levers to mitigate risk of spread of COVID-19 across school settings
 - Monitoring for Incidences
 - Containing Potential Outbreaks
 - Temporarily Reclosing (if necessary)
- Minimum requirements that plans developed by LEAs must address were determined to be in the best interest of Utah's students and faculty to create a consistent, state-wide standard of expectation; recommendations provide considerations to guide local planning efforts and may be adapted to fit the unique circumstances of each LEA, school, and individual classroom

TOOLKIT FOR K-12 SCHOOLS, CDC

- Review guidance and tools to help school administrators make decisions, protect their students and staff, and communicate with their community; One-Stop Shop Toolkit:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/toolkits/schools.html>

Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this COVID-19 pandemic.
Feel free to contact the Davis County Health Department with any questions at 801-525-5128.