

Can the school(s) implement recommended COVID-19 health and safety measures?

School Administrators and Staff

The risk of COVID-19 spreading in schools depends on the ability of the school to implement **DOH's K-12 health and safety measures** and [LNI employer safety requirements](#).

Does the school have the plans, staff, space, and supplies to do the following?

- ✓ Protect staff and students at higher risk for severe COVID-19 while ensuring access to learning.
- ✓ Transport or facilitate drop-off and pick-up of students.
- ✓ Group students (required in elementary, recommended for middle and high school).
- ✓ Practice physical distancing of ≥6 feet among students and staff.
- ✓ Promote frequent hand washing or sanitizing.
- ✓ Promote and ensure face covering use among students and staff.
- ✓ Increase cleaning and disinfection.
- ✓ Improve ventilation.

Are all staff trained on health and safety practices?



Is the school and health system ready to monitor for and respond to suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19?

Schools and Local Public Health

COVID-19 cases in the school should be expected. The risk of COVID-19 spreading in schools depends on the ability to quickly identify and respond to suspected and confirmed cases and the level of community transmission.

- ✓ Can **the school** ensure monitoring of symptoms and history of exposure among students and staff? (attestation acceptable)
- ✓ Is **the school** prepared to manage students and/or staff who get sick onsite?
- ✓ Does **the school** have letters drafted to inform families and staff about confirmed cases or outbreaks? For other languages?
- ✓ Is there adequate access to testing in the community **health** system for ill students and staff?
- ✓ Is there capacity in your **local health department** to investigate confirmed COVID-19 cases, quarantine their close contacts and assess whether transmission is occurring in the school?
- ✓ Can **local public health** monitor the level of community spread to determine when a change in education modality is needed?



Begin Learning Model and Monitor

The decision to resume or expand in-person learning is complex and requires weighing both risks and benefits to children, staff, their families, and the broader community. With regards to COVID-19, DOH recommends that local leaders consider COVID-19 activity level (i.e., case rates, percent test positivity, trends, etc.) as well as the educational, social and emotional benefits of in-person learning for students. When recommending guiding metrics to resume in-person learning, DOH considered both the health risks of COVID-19 to students, school staff, and the surrounding community; as well as the benefits of in-person school to children and their families. These metrics are not intended to serve as a hard thresholds but as a primary consideration in determining for whom to provide in-person learning.

For whom should your community provide in person learning?

For School Administrators, Local Health Officers, and Community Stakeholders

The risk of COVID-19 being introduced into the school and spreading depends on the health and safety measures taken by schools and the level of COVID-19 spread in the community. **Consider the following educational modalities based on community transmission and other health and education risks and benefits.**

COVID-19 Activity	HIGH >350 cases/100K/14 days Test positivity >10% Trends in cases and hospitalizations	MODERATE ~50-350 cases/100K /14 days Test positivity 5-10% Trends in cases and hospitalizations	LOW <50 cases/100K/14 days Test positivity <5% Trends in cases and hospitalizations
Education Modality	<p>Phase in in-person learning in groups of 15 or fewer students for pre-K through grade 5 and those with highest needs.</p> <p>Prioritize Pre-K through grade 3, and students in any grade with disabilities, students living homeless, or those farthest from educational justice.</p> <p>If schools can demonstrate the ability to limit transmission in the school environment, add grades 4-5.</p>	<p>Phase in in-person learning.</p> <p>Prioritize Elementary (pre-K - 5) if they are not already receiving in-person learning, and Middle School.</p> <p>If schools can demonstrate the ability to limit transmission in the school environment, add more high school students when case rates are below about 200/100K/14 days.</p>	<p>Provide in-person learning for all students.</p>
Extra-curricular Activities	<p>Cancel or postpone most in-person extra-curricular activities except those allowed under Safe Start and Governor’s proclamations on COVID-19.</p>	<p>Extra-curricular activities must follow K-12, applicable Safe Start protocols and Governor’s proclamations on COVID-19.</p>	<p>Extra-curricular activities must follow K-12, applicable Safe Start protocols and Governor’s proclamations on COVID-19.</p>
Transition	<p>Across all COVID-19 Activity Levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When trends in cases and hospitalizations are flat or decreasing, and the school can demonstrate the ability to limit transmission in the school environment, expand access to in-person learning • When trends are increasing, pause expansion of additional in-person learning and maintain access to in-person learning for those who have it. Schools are not required to reduce in-person learning or revert to remote learning based on metrics if the school can demonstrate the ability to limit transmission in the school environment. • Consider other health and education risks and benefits to children and their families <p>At any COVID-19 level, transition temporarily to full distance learning for 14 days when school meets criteria in DOH’s K-12 Health and Safety Guidance (p 16) or on recommendation of the local health officer.</p>		