



Sustaining safe in-person learning, ensuring proper hygiene, and managing daily operations are all important for creating and maintaining a safe and secure school environment amid a public health crisis.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) encourages kindergarten through grade 12 (K-12) schools to implement layered prevention strategies – multiple strategies for prevention that are used together consistently – to protect students, teachers, staff, visitors, and household members and support in-person learning throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes key strategies like indoor masking, physical distancing, and vaccinations to help combat the spread of COVID-19 in the school community. Schools should work with local public health officials, consistent with applicable laws and regulations, to determine which prevention strategies are needed in their area by monitoring levels of community transmission and local vaccine coverage and adopting screening testing to detect cases in K-12 communities.

In addition to sustaining safe in-person learning and implementing COVID-19 prevention strategies, schools must consider the mental health impact the pandemic has had on students, educators, and staff. Schools should provide the proper resources and support necessary in order to maintain a strong, resilient, and supportive environment as students, teachers, and faculty continue to navigate the ongoing effects of COVID-19.

**School communities should frequent CDC's official website as well as follow the policies and practices of state, local, territorial, and tribal public health departments as COVID-19 guidance is updated and subject to change as the pandemic evolves.*

SchoolSafety.gov Disclaimer

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Resources

SchoolSafety.gov offers resources, tools, and guidance related to COVID-19 prevention and mental health support in K-12 schools, including:

- [Back to School During COVID-19](#): These resources, compiled by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, are designed to address mental health and resiliency in school settings as students and schools cope with the pandemic.
- [COVID-19 Vaccines for Children and Teens](#): This guidance outlines information on COVID-19 vaccines for children and teens, including how to find vaccination spots and tips to support youth before, during, and after vaccination.
- [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#): This frequently updated guidance for school administrators outlines strategies for K-12 schools to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 and maintain safe operations.
- [Responding to COVID-19 School Mental Health](#): This compilation of resources, products, events, and training helps to address the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on students and their families, educators, and the school mental health workforce, as well as the school mental health system.
- [Safe Schools Checklist](#): This resource provides ideas on how to get school communities vaccinated and maintain safe, in-person learning all year long.
- [Toolkit for Responding to COVID-19 Cases](#): CDC's toolkit for K-12 school administrators includes a guide for addressing cases in schools, case and contact notification letter templates, and more.
- [What You Should Know About COVID-19 Testing in Schools](#): This resource offers information on options, strategies, and considerations for COVID-19 testing in K-12 schools, including the Test to Stay option.

