School Playbook: COVID-19 Guidance/Considerations for K-12 Schools and the Role of Local Health Departments
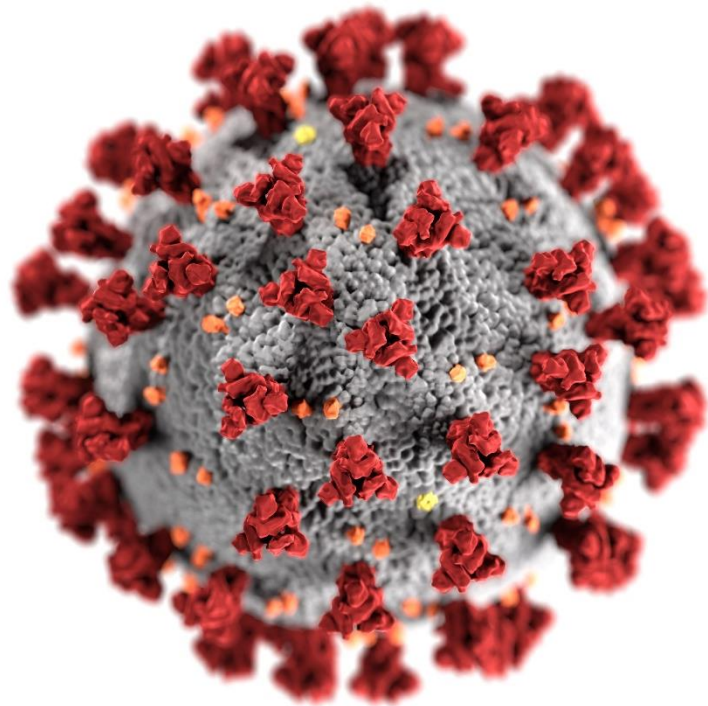
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Lead, JCC Mitigations and Risk Working Group

Lead, CDC Community Interventions and Critical Populations Task Force

NAESP COVID-19 Webinar

October 7, 2020

cdc.gov/coronavirus

POLL QUESTION

Which Region of the Country Do You Live?

- South
- Southwest
- West Coast
- Midwest
- Northeast
- Other - Please use the chat box to type in your response

POLL QUESTION

Please Identify Your School Setting

- Urban
- Suburban
- Rural

Introductions

Dr. Greta Massetti

Lead of the Community Intervention and Critical Populations Task Force CDC COVID-2019 Response

Expert Panelists:

- Dr. Chris Jones, Deputy Lead, Community Interventions and Critical Populations Task Force

- Jessica Li, MPH, Worker Safety and Health Subject Matter Expert, Health Systems and Worker Safety Task Force, CDC COVID-19 Response

Overview

- Data and statistics

- Guidance and considerations for K-12 schools

- Other topics related to K-12: school food service, sports, social/emotional/mental health, and Halloween
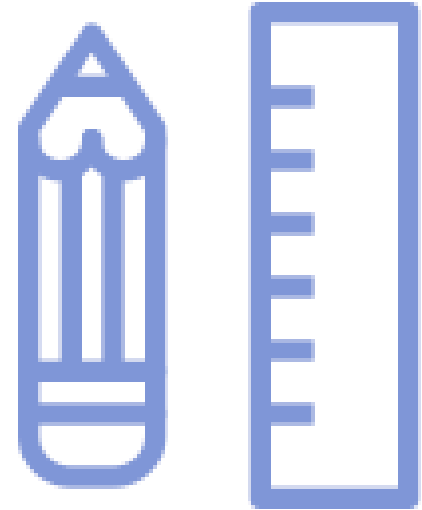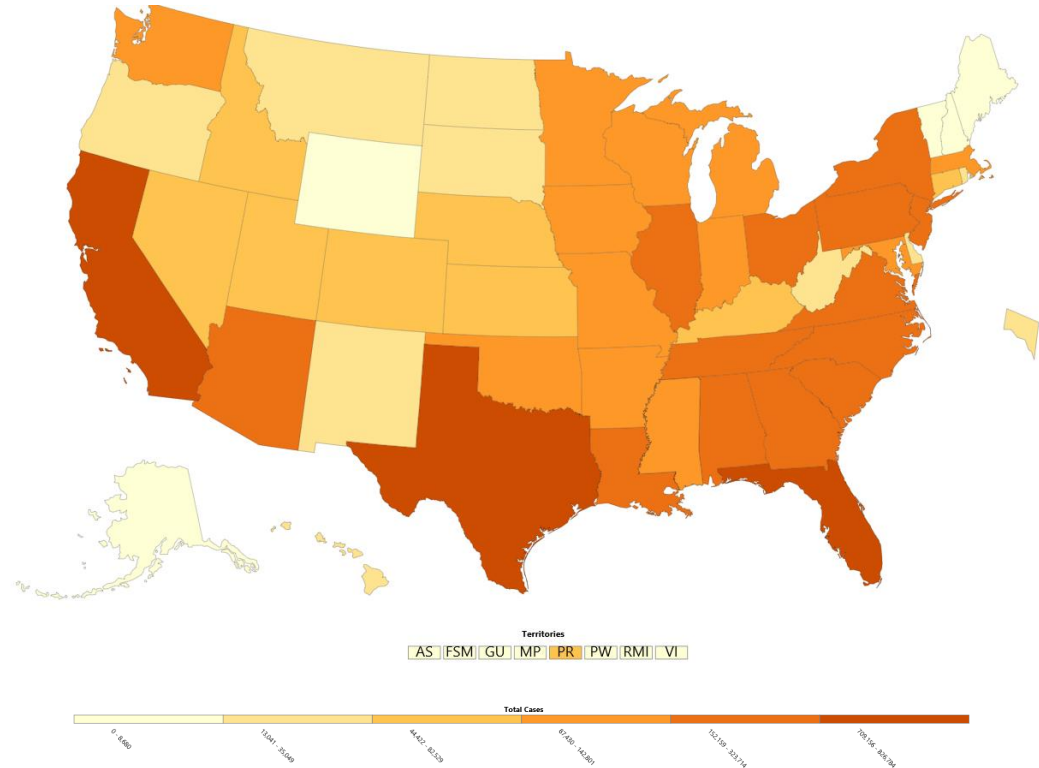
Data and Statistics

US COVID-19 cases reported to the CDC, by state/territory
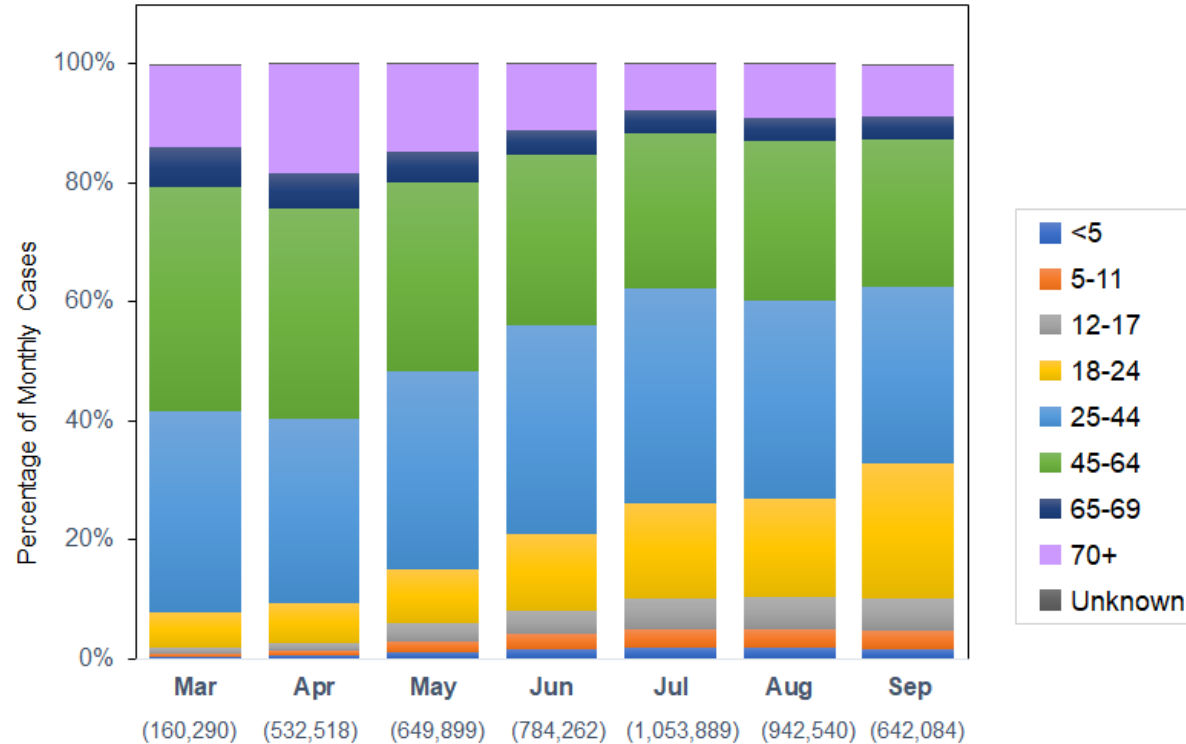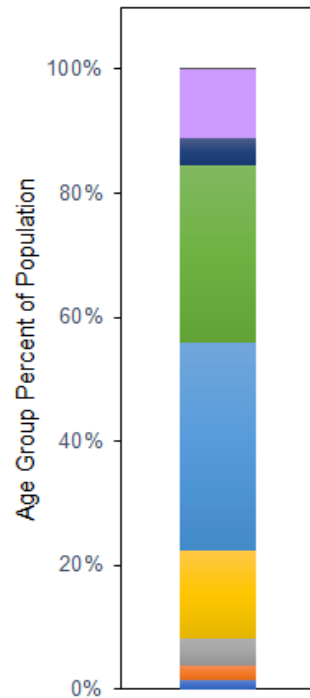
- As of October 6, 2020

  – Total cases in last 7 days
    306,970

  – Total number of cases
    7,436,278

  – Total deaths
    209,560

Territories
AS FSM GU MP PR PW RMI VI

Total Cases
0 - 8,460 | 11,041 - 35,049 | 44,422 - 82,509 | 67,430 - 143,801 | 152,159 - 333,714 | 708,166 - 826,994

Google Search Terms: COVID data tracker, CDC

Trends in case incidence by age group

Source: CDC Case Report Data

COVID-19 Trends Among School-Aged Children—United States, March 1–September 19, 2020

- Incidence of reported cases among 12–17-year-old children two times higher than that of 5–11-year-old children

- Large increases in positive tests May–mid July; plateau in late July then decrease in August

- Mortality and hospitalization low overall

- Some children at increased risk

  - Among children hospitalized or admitted to an ICU, Hispanic ethnicity, Black race, and underlying medical conditions were more common

Google Search Terms: MMWR trends school-aged COVID, CDC

Guidance and Considerations for K-12 Schools

Indicators for dynamic school decision-making

- Many state, tribal, local, and territorial public health officials, partners, and members of the public have asked CDC how to determine when it is safer to open schools for in-person learning

- The core and secondary indicators can aid state, tribal, local, and territorial public health officials in their decision-making process regarding school reopening for in-person learning

- Each community should decide the most appropriate indicators to reference when deciding to open, close, or reopen schools for in-person learning

Google Search Terms: school reopening indicators, CDC

Core indicators to inform in-person school learning

INDICATORS	Lowest Risk of Transmission in Schools	Lower Risk of Transmission in Schools	Moderate Risk of Transmission in Schools	Higher Risk of Transmission in Schools	Highest Risk of Transmission in Schools
Number of new cases per 100,000 persons within the last 14 days*	<5	5 to <20	20 to <50	50 to ≤ 200	>200
Percentage of RT-PCR tests that are positive during the last 14 days**	<3%	3% to <5%	5% to <8%	8% to ≤ 10%	>10%
Ability of the school to implement 5 key mitigation strategies: • Consistent and correct use of masks • Social distancing to the largest extent possible • Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette • Cleaning and disinfection • Contact tracing in collaboration with local health department	Implemented all 5 strategies correctly and consistently	Implemented all 5 strategies correctly but inconsistently	Implemented 3-4 strategies correctly and consistently	Implemented 1-2 strategies correctly and consistently	Implemented no strategies

*Number of new cases per 100,000 persons within the last 14 days is calculated by adding the number of new cases in the county (or other community type) in the last 14 days divided by the population in the county (or other community type) and multiplying by 100,000.

**Percentage of RT-PCR tests in the community (e.g., county) that are positive during the last 14 days is calculated by dividing the number of positive tests over the last 14 days by the total number of tests resulted over the last 14 days. Diagnostic tests are viral (RT-PCR) diagnostic and screening laboratory tests (excludes antibody testing and PT-PCR testing for surveillance purposes). Learn more: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/resources/calculating-percent-positivity.html

Google Search Terms: school reopening indicators, CDC

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Importance of layering of mitigation strategies to the greatest extent possible

- Key mitigation strategies:
    - Consistent and correct use of **masks**
        - For those who may have difficulty, CDC provides adaptation and alternatives
    - **Social distancing** to the largest extent possible
    - **Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette**
    - **Cleaning and disinfection**
    - **Contact tracing** in collaboration with local health department
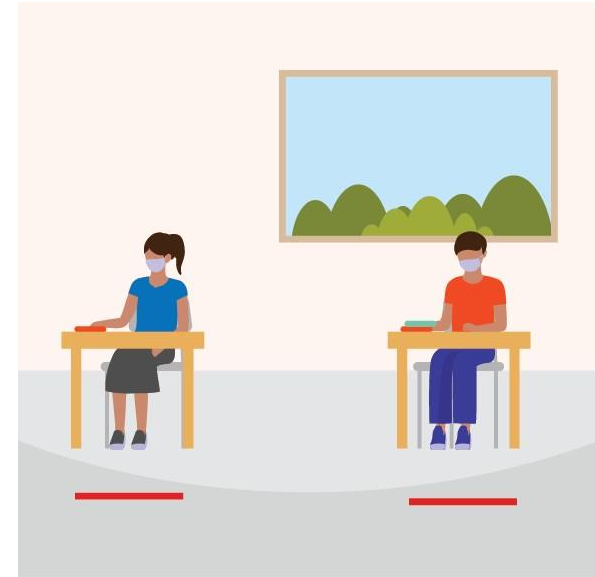
When used consistently and correctly, masks are important to help slow the spread of COVID-19

If you are able, find a mask that is made for children

If you can't find a mask made for children, check to be sure the mask fits snugly over the nose and mouth and under the chin

Do NOT put on children younger than 2 years old

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Additional considerations for the use of masks among K-12 students

Possible Student Scenario	Masks Recommended	Masks May Be Considered	Additional Considerations
Students are seated less than 6 feet apart while riding a bus or while carpooling	✓		• Masks should always be worn by bus and carpool drivers as able*
Students are less than 6 feet apart while entering or exiting school (e.g., carpool drop off/pick up) or while transitioning to/from other activities	✓		• Consider having staff monitor students during transitions to encourage correct use and distribute masks as needed. • Teachers and staff should wash or sanitize hands (using a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol) before and after helping a student put on or adjust a mask.
Students are seated at least 6 feet apart in the classroom		✓	• Adaptations and alternatives should be considered whenever possible to increase the feasibility of wearing a mask or to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading.
Students are seated less than 6 feet apart in the classroom, or are engaging in learning stations or circle time that require close contact	✓		• Schools may consider keeping students in "cohorts." Cohorts are groups of students that do not mix with other cohorts/groups of students throughout the school day. • Adaptations and alternatives should be considered whenever possible to increase the feasibility of wearing a mask or to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading.
Students are less than 6 feet apart while transitioning between classes or to other activities during the school day	✓		• Schools may consider staggering classroom transition times and allow only one-way pathways/hallways. • Adaptations and alternatives should be considered whenever possible to increase the feasibility of wearing a mask or to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading.

Google Search Terms: use of masks K-12, CDC

Monitoring and evaluating mitigation strategies implemented in K-12 schools

- Important to have systems in place for the monitoring and evaluation of COVID-19 mitigation strategies

- Updated considerations from CDC include:
  - Example evaluation questions
    - *Which mitigation strategies are being implemented in K-12 schools in my area (i.e., school, district, city, state), and how and when are they implemented?*
  - Example indicators
    - *Policies and infrastructure for isolation of symptomatic students, faculty, and staff*
  - Example data sources
    - *School/District policies and recommendations*

Google Search Terms: monitoring K-12, CDC

Interim considerations for testing for K-12 school administrators and public health officials

- **Available soon:** Considerations for antigen testing in school settings
  - Intended for K-12 school administrators working in collaboration with their state, tribal, local, and territorial public health officials
- Part of a comprehensive strategy and should be used in conjunction with—
  - Promoting behaviors that reduce spread
  - Maintaining healthy environments
  - Maintaining healthy operations
  - Preparing for when someone gets sick

Interim guidance for case investigation and contact tracing in K-12 schools

- Health department collaboration with the K-12 school will vary
  - Scenario 1: Health Department asks K-12 school for help in understanding the risk for transmission in the school community and help to identify exposures and contacts in the school setting
  - Scenario 2: Health Department asks K-12 school to identify contacts among the immediate community of students, teachers, and staff affected by the case
  - Scenario 3: Health Department conducts contact tracing without directly engaging the K-12 school

Google Search Terms: contact tracing K-12, CDC

K-12 guidance and tools under development

Guidance:

- Considerations for Testing (K-12 and IHE)
- Update to the Child Care Programs Guidance

Tools:

- K-12 Schools – Assessment Toolkit for COVID-19
- Getting Schools Ready: A How-To Guide for Reopening during COVID-19
- FAQs for Teachers Going Back to School
- Mask messages for kids/parents (School Kids series and IHE series)
- Teacher and Staff Planning Tool and Checklist for Back To School
- Schools/Classroom Sample Layouts

Other Topics Related to K-12: Sports, Social/Emotional/Mental Health, & Fall Holidays

School food service considerations

- In-person learning or hybrid
  - Serve individually plated or pre-packaged meals
  - As feasible, have children eat meals outdoors or in classrooms, while maintaining social distance (at least 6 feet apart) as much as possible, instead of in a communal dining hall or cafeteria
  - Ensure children do not share food or utensils

- Virtual learning
  - Consider innovative school meal service models (e.g., curbside pick-up, school bus delivery)

Considerations for youth sports

LOWER RISK → HIGHER RISK

Skill-building drills at home

Team practice

Within-team competition

Competition with teams from your area

Full competition from different areas

GO TEAM!

COVID-19 Parental Resources Kit

Google Search Terms: parental resources kit, CDC

Considerations for fall and winter holidays

Factors to consider:

- – Community levels of COVID-19
- – Location of gathering
- – Duration of gathering
- – Number of people at gathering
- – Location attendees are traveling from
- – Behaviors of attendees before gathering
- – Behaviors of attendees during gathering

Google Search Terms: holidays COVID-19, CDC

Halloween activities for school-age children

- Lower risk activities
  - Carving or decorating pumpkins outside, at a safe distance
  - Virtual Halloween costume contest

- Moderate risk activities
  - Outdoor costume party where protective masks are used and people remain more than 6 feet apart (costume masks are **not** a substitute for cloth masks)

- Higher risk activities (to be avoided)
  - Traditional trick-or-treating
  - Crowded costume parties
 - Indoor haunted houses where people might be crowded together

Summary

Summary

- Local health officials, school administrators, and communities can use CDC's guidance and considerations to prepare, plan, and respond to COVID-19
  - When making decisions about beginning, continuing, or pausing in-person learning
  - When implementing, monitoring and evaluating K-12 school mitigation strategies
  - When testing for COVID-19 among K-12 populations
  - When conducting K-12 school contact tracing and case investigation
- CDC's guidance is meant to supplement—not replace—any state, tribal, local, or territorial health and safety laws, rules, and regulations with which schools must comply
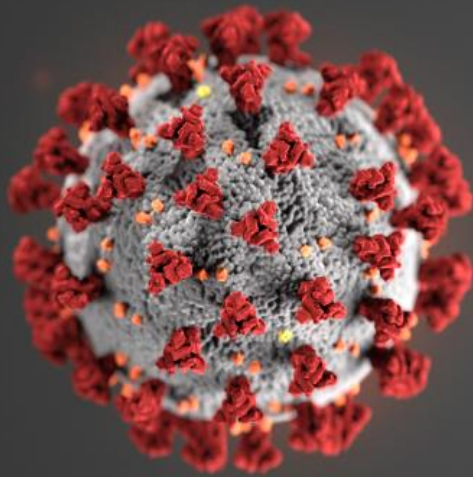
For more information, contact CDC
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)
TTY: 1-888-232-6348   www.cdc.gov

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Questions & Answers

Use the Chat Box to Type in Your Questions
Select the Dropdown
"All Panelist and Attendees"

Feel free to contact: dcarlson@naesp.org