

The CDC updated its school guidance today. Here's the link to the guidance. I've pasted the Physical Distance section below: [Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Mitigation | CDC](#)

Physical distancing

Core principle for physical distancing: Establish school policies and implement structural interventions to promote physical distance between people.

- Between students in classrooms
 - In elementary schools, students should be at least 3 feet apart.¹
 - In middle schools and high schools, students should be at least 3 feet apart in areas of low, moderate, or substantial community transmission. In areas of high community transmission, middle and high school students should be 6 feet apart if cohorting is not possible.^{1,2, 4-6}
- Maintain 6 feet of distance in the following settings:
 - Between adults (teachers and staff), and between adults and students, at all times in the school building. Several studies have found that transmission between staff is more common than transmission between students and staff, and among students, in schools.¹
 - When masks cannot be worn, such as when eating.
 - During activities when increased exhalation occurs, such as singing, shouting, band, or sports and exercise. Move these activities outdoors or to large, well-ventilated space, when possible.
 - In common areas such as school lobbies and auditoriums.
- Use [cohorting](#), and maintain 6 feet of distance between cohorts where possible. Limit contact between cohorts. In areas of substantial (orange) and high (red) levels of community transmission, schools that use less than 6 feet between students in classrooms, cohorting is recommended, with at least 6 feet maintained between cohorts.
- Remove nonessential furniture and make other changes to classroom layouts to maximize distance between students.
- Face desks in the same direction, where possible.
- Eliminate or decrease nonessential in-person interactions among teachers and staff during meetings, lunches, and other situations that could lead to adult-to-adult transmission.
- **Visitors:** [Limit any nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities](#) involving external groups or organizations as much as possible—especially with people who are not from the local geographic area (for example, not from the same community, town, city, county). Require all visitors to wear masks and physically distance from others.
- **Transportation:** Create distance between children on school buses (for example, seat children one child per row, skip rows), when possible. [Masks are required](#) by federal order on school buses and other forms of public transportation in the United States. Open windows to improve ventilation when it does not create a safety hazard. More information about school transportation and prevention is available.

Additional suggestions for physical distancing:

- **Staggered scheduling:** [Stagger](#) school arrival and drop-off times or locations by cohort, or put in place other protocols to limit contact between cohorts, as well as direct contact with parents.
- **Alternate schedules with fixed cohorts** of students and staff to decrease class size and promote physical distancing.