COVID-19: Considerations for Schools

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CDC COVID-19 Emergency Response
COVID-19: How It Spreads

- Thought to spread mainly from person to person:
  - Between people in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
  - Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
  - Droplets can land in the mouths, noses, or eyes of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
  - Virus may be spread by people not showing symptoms.
Community Mitigation Strategies

- Set of actions people and communities can take to slow the spread of respiratory diseases
  - Especially important if vaccine or treatment is unavailable

- Mitigation strategies include:
  - Social distancing
  - Personal protective measures
  - Cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces

Each Community is Unique

- Appropriate mitigation strategies depend on:
  - Level of community transmission
  - Characteristics of community and populations
  - Public health and healthcare capacity

- Decisions made in collaboration with state and local health officials

Guiding Principles to Keep in Mind

- Lowest Risk:
  - Virtual-only classes, activities, and events

- More Risk:
  - Small in-person classes, activities, and events
  - Groups stay together, remain at least 6 feet apart, and do not share objects

- Highest Risk:
  - Full sized in-person classes, activities, and events
  - Individuals are not spaced apart, items are shared, groups are mixed
Layering Mitigation Strategies

Use multiple strategies to more effectively reduce the spread of COVID-19.

1. Promoting Behaviors that Reduce Spread
2. Maintaining Healthy Environments
3. Maintaining Healthy Operations
4. Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick
Promoting Behaviors that Reduce the Spread

- Educate about staying home when appropriate
- Teach hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette
- Teach and promote use of cloth face coverings
- Ensure adequate hygiene supplies
- Post signs and share messages

CDC offers free communication resources such as images, videos, PSAs, and print ready signs and fact sheets at:

Maintaining Healthy Environments

- Clean and disinfect
- Discourage use of shared items
- Promote physical distancing
- Ensure water and ventilation systems operate properly
Maintaining Healthy Operations

- Protect vulnerable staff and students
- Be aware of state and local regulatory policies
- Limit gatherings, visitors and field trips
- Address communication considerations
- Address staffing considerations
- Recognize signs and symptoms of COVID-19
- Identify small groups and keep them together
- Stagger scheduling
- Support community response
- Support coping and resilience
Preparing for When Someone Gets sick

- Plan for isolation and transportation needs
- Notify health officials and close contacts
- Establish cleaning and disinfecting protocol
COVID-19: CDC Resources

- Handwashing information: [https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/index.html)
Questions and Answers

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