

In partnership with their students, families, staff, and state and local health authorities, school districts will have the flexibility to choose and adapt a concept and schedule for reopening schools that works best for their community in the 2020–21 school year. While the priority is returning all students to attending in-person school in the fall, health considerations may make that difficult.

PLAN A: In-person instruction for all students, while complying with public health authority requirements and Labor & Industry requirements for school employees. Plans must have these features to reopen to ALL students:

- Mandatory physical distancing: Districts must arrange their physical spaces to accommodate six feet of distance between students when all students and staff are seated.
- Mandatory face covering: Students, staff and volunteers must wear face coverings (with accommodations for those who cannot for health and safety reasons.) Cloth face coverings are preferred but face shields for students and teachers for instructional purposes only are an acceptable alternative.
- Mandatory daily health screenings for students and staff. Sick students and staff must stay home.
- Mandatory and frequent hand washing and other hygiene practices.
- For buses, staff and riders must wear a face covering, with district protocols for increased ventilation and cleaning. The physical distance between students sitting on a bus must be maximized for as long as possible and until it is necessary to fill in the last of available seats.
- Increased cleaning and sanitizing or disinfecting of high-touch materials and surfaces; schools should use cleaning and disinfecting products that are effective but minimize chemical harmful exposure.
- Additional recommendations:
 - Increased physical distancing at drop off and pick up, including staggering drop-off and pick-up times for various groups, using one-way traffic flows, greeting students at their vehicle, or placing distancing markers on walkways.
 - Increased physical distancing may mean meals are delivered to classroom, grab-and-go, or on a staggered schedule in the cafeteria with classroom groups together but tables six feet apart.
 - Increased use of student grouping, with same teacher, to minimize contact with others.
 - Increased use of outdoor learning spaces.

- Limited: school visitors/volunteers, travel to special programs, and activities known to increase transmission risk, e.g., choir, anything requiring removal of face coverings, assemblies, and field trips.
- Increased ventilation.
- Limited sharing of materials to those that are easy to clean and sanitize or disinfect.

PLAN B: Districts can use an alternative plan when schools are unable to meet physical distancing requirements and other in-person health requirements listed above for ALL students enrolled in the district. Plan A requirements are still mandatory for any in-person instruction.

- Split or rotating schedules in school buildings with continuous remote learning offered.
- Phased-in opening of school buildings with continuous remote learning offered.
- Prioritized in-person instruction for students most at risk, students with learning gaps, students with disabilities, and younger students who find remote learning challenging.
- Continuous Learning 2.0 (continuous remote learning for all students).

PLAN C: Every school district should have a contingency plan in place for continuous remote learning for all students should they need to close buildings to preserve health and safety.

References:

[Reopening Washington Schools 2020: District Planning Guide](#)

[Reopening Washington Schools: Questions & Answers for School Districts](#)

[Guidance on Cloth Face Coverings from the Washington State Department of Health](#)

[Safer Cleaning, Sanitizing and Disinfecting Strategies to Reduce and Prevent COVID-19 Transmission](#)

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