# Mitigation Strategies

## Practicing Prevention and Responding to COVID-19 in K-12 Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Temporary Closure(s)</th>
<th>Enhanced Mitigation Measures</th>
<th>Preventive Practices</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consult with local and state DHM health officials</td>
<td>Establish and maintain communication with local and state DHM health officials</td>
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<td>Report closures to Gadoe</td>
<td>Participate in contact tracing efforts and specimen collection efforts as directed by local health officials (to the extent feasible)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Close off affected areas if and when possible, 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting</td>
<td>Coordinate contact tracing efforts and specimen collection efforts as directed by local health officials (to the extent feasible)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Close off affected areas if and when possible, 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting</td>
<td>If contact tracing indicates a COVID-19 exposure, follow procedures for isolating affected area(s)</td>
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<td>Determine partial or complete closure by evaluating size and characteristics of student and staff populations, setting characteristics and environmental factors that affect transmission, increased absenteeism, and trends of suspension/termination of Lice of COVID-19 (see Considerations for Temporary Closures)</td>
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<td>Consider ways to accommodate needs of children, teachers/staff, and families at higher risk for severe illness (see Protecting Vulnerable Populations for considerations)</td>
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<td>For additional guidance, see the CDC's Considerations for School reopenings.</td>
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**DHM DOES NOT recommend using a test-based strategy for re-opening for schools for children or adults (with negative results at least 24 hours apart) after COVID-19 infection.**

**This guidance is not comprehensive, but is offered to school districts as a framework to help them address the unique needs of their students and staff during this unprecedented time.**

### Recommendations

**Face Coverings:**

- For the Governor's Executive Order, the use of face coverings in schools is not mandated but is strongly recommended, particularly in settings where social distancing is difficult to accomplish (i.e., large classrooms, drop-in/participation settings, etc.).

**Hand Sanitizer:**

- Hand sanitizers should contain at least 60% alcohol and are effective with alcohol-free and hand sanitizers that are alcohol-free and have a cover.

**Clean/Disinfect:**

- Follow the guidelines for appropriate cleaning agents and disinfectants to maintain a clean and healthy environment.

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**Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools**

- The Georgia Department of Education, in partnership with the Georgia Department of Public Health, has developed guidance to support districts in understanding the regulations and strategies for reopening Georgia’s Path to Recovery for K-12 schools.

- This approach is built upon the guidance and recommendations of health officials. It is strongly aligned to the reopening guidelines that have been provided by state and federal leaders, and it is designed to help districts prioritize the health and safety of students and teachers as they open school buildings and deliver instruction for the 2020-2021 school year.

**Georgia Path to Recovery for K-12 schools focuses heavily on the health and physical preparations necessary for reopening school buildings. The Georgia Department of Education will continue to provide guidance and recommendations for districts and schools on navigating the academic, social, and emotional effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on students and staff.**

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**Practicing Prevention and Responding to COVID-19 in K-12 Schools**

- **Screening**
- **Practicing Prevention**
- **Transporting Students**
- **Entering School Buildings**
- **Serving Meals**

- **Conducting Large Group Gatherings**
- **Supporting Teaching and Learning**
- **Protecting Vulnerable Populations**
- **When a Child, Staff Member or Visitor Becomes Sick at School**

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*Richard Woods, Georgia’s School Superintendent | Georgia Department of Education | Educating Georgia’s Future*