



SCHOOLS SHOULD SAFELY REOPEN

PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S POLICY RESTS ON THREE FUNDAMENTAL FACTS:

- 1 Prolonged school closures inflict massive harm on children, risking their academic, social, and emotional development.
- 2 Children are at extremely low risk for serious illness, hospitalization, or death from COVID-19; according to all available data, far lower risk than from seasonal influenza.
- 3 Educating America's children is a top national priority; schools are as important, and in some cases, more important, than any other essential business.

IN ADDITION, WE KNOW THE FOLLOWING FROM THE MEDICAL SCIENCE, THE DATA, AND COMMON SENSE:

Prolonged school closures particularly impair the education, mental health, and social development of disadvantaged and special needs children, pushing them further behind their peers and inflicting long-lasting damage on them and the country.

Public K-12 teachers are generally young (median 41 years of age; 92 percent under 60 years of age); accordingly, the vast majority of them are at low risk for serious illness, hospitalization, or death from COVID-19.

We know how to protect high-risk individuals from infection, including students and their families, teachers, and staff. These high-risk individuals or those with high-risk individuals in their family, can be offered options for distance learning and distance teaching.

Child care centers have remained open all over the country, without significant problems for children or staff, by using commonsense mitigation measures.

Prolonged school closures will severely limit economic reopening, because it limits the ability of parents to work, particularly those from lower- and middle-income families (91.4 percent of children 6-17 have an employed parent; 79 percent of single-mothers and 83.5 percent of single-fathers with children 6-17 are employed).

Prolonged school closures will harm United States global competitiveness, as our peer nations have opened or are opening their schools.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALL SCHOOLS:

- 1 Ensure all students, teachers, and staff **understand the symptoms** of COVID-19 and its risk factors.
- 2 Require all students, teachers, and staff to **self-assess their health every morning** before coming to school; if they are symptomatic they should consult their physician.
- 3 **Encourage frequent handwashing or hand sanitizing** during the school day, beginning upon entrance to the school, by ensuring that handwashing facilities are widely available throughout the school.
- 4 **Minimize large indoor group gatherings**; hold large gatherings outdoors whenever possible.
- 5 **Maintain high standards of hygiene and ventilation** within all classrooms, including keeping windows and doors open and running fans and AC units whenever possible.
- 6 Require students, teachers, and staff to **socially distance around high-risk individuals**.
- 7 **Encourage the use of masks** when social distancing is not possible.
- 8 **Liberal post instructions** regarding hygiene and social distancing around the school.



GUIDANCE TO PROTECT HIGH-RISK TEACHERS AND HIGH-RISK STUDENTS:

- 1 Students, their families, teachers, and staff should **consult with their medical providers** to determine if they are at high-risk from COVID-19.
- 2 Provide high-risk teachers the choice to **stay home and engage in distance teaching.**
- 3 Provide high-risk students, or students who have high-risk family members, the choice to **stay home and engage in distance learning.**
- 4 Provide high-risk staff options to **modify their work routines.**
- 5 Strongly encourage high-risk students, teachers, and staff to **maintain social distance, avoid crowded gatherings, and wear masks** when social distancing is not possible.
- 6 **Train school medical personnel** regarding the symptoms of COVID-19; maintain isolation areas for those who become symptomatic to use while they await transportation away from school.



HANDWASHING, SOCIAL DISTANCING, MASKS

Since adults play a significant role in the spread of COVID-19, teachers and staff should take special care to **frequently wash or sanitize their hands, and maintain distance** from each other.

High-risk students, teachers, and staff should be especially diligent about **handwashing and social distancing**; masks should be available for situations in which social distancing is not possible.

STUDENTS: *Monitoring symptoms and signs; recommendations*

Students (and their families) should **monitor and self-assess for symptoms** every day before going to school.

Students demonstrating symptoms of COVID-19 should **consult their physician**.

Students discovered to be COVID-19-positive must **stay away from school for 10 days** from the date of a positive test.

TEACHERS AND STAFF: *Monitoring symptoms and signs; recommendations*

Teachers and staff should **monitor and self-assess for symptoms** every day before going to school.

Teachers and staff demonstrating symptoms of COVID-19 should **consult their physician**.

Teachers and staff discovered to be COVID-19-positive must **stay home for 10 days** from the date of a positive test.

All high-risk teachers should **take extra precautions** and be diligent about handwashing, social distancing, and wearing a mask when they are unable to social distance.