

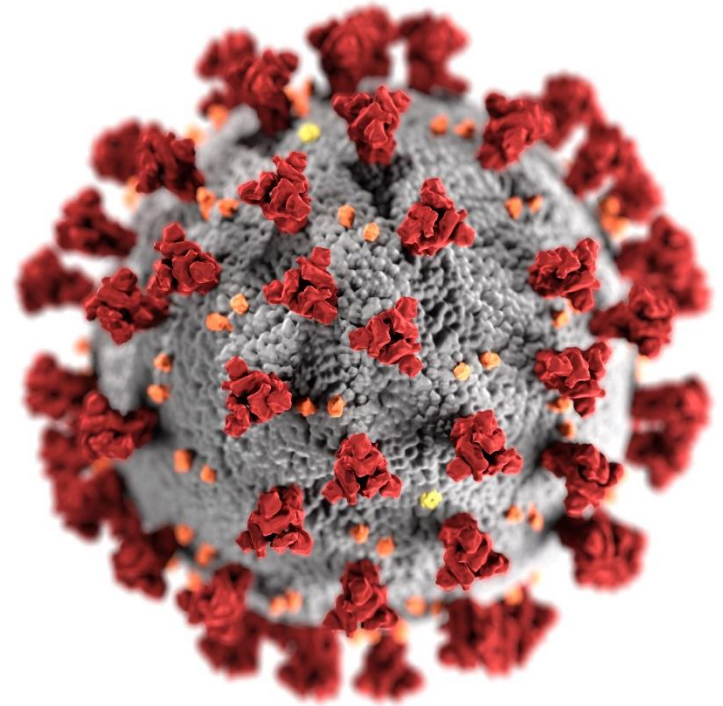
# Considerations for COVID-19 mitigation and response in schools outside of the U.S.

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**COVID-19 International Task Force**

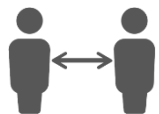
2 September 2020



**[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)**

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/global-covid-19](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/global-covid-19)

# Mitigation strategies for schools



Physical Distancing



Cleaning and Disinfection



Hand Hygiene

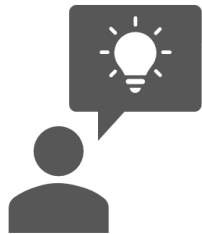


Screening and Monitoring

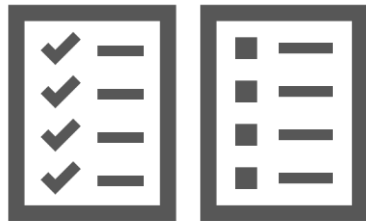


Respiratory Hygiene

# Types of controls in school settings for COVID-19



**Personal**



**Administrative**



**Engineering**

All controls will vary by resources available and should be informed by local data about the epidemic.

# Personal controls for students and staff



## Physical Distancing

- Maintain 2-meter distance when possible between people who do not live together



## Hand Hygiene

- Frequently wash hands with soap and water (for 20 seconds)
- Can use alcohol-based handrub ( $\geq 60\%$  alcohol)



## Respiratory Hygiene

- Wear a mask
- Cover coughs and sneezes



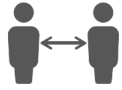
## Cleaning and Disinfection

- Wipe down frequently touched objects/surfaces after use



## Screening and Monitoring

- Take your temperature, especially if you have symptoms
- Stay at home if you feel sick or after you have close contact with someone who is sick



# Physical Distancing

## Administrative controls:

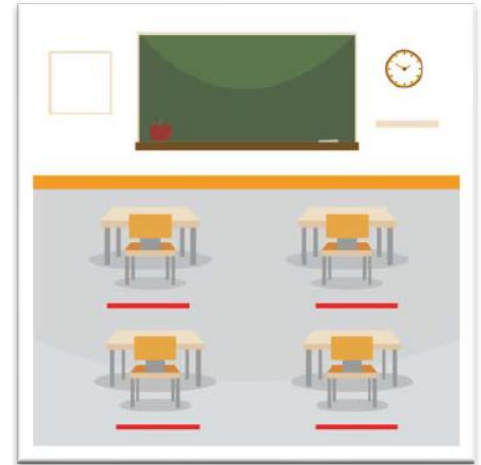
- Restrict mixing between groups by using cohorts / pods
- Establish an alternating schedule for cohorts
- Limit crowding during the school day
- Avoid sharing books and supplies
- Restrict entry of caregivers and non-essential visitors

## Considerations and Challenges:

- Adapt school meal programs for safe delivery, pick up, and consumption
- Establish distance learning or other adaptations for at-risk students and staff
- If classrooms are too small to allow spaced-out seating, re-purpose spaces (gyms, cafeterias) or move classes outside if conditions allow

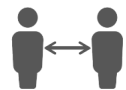
## Engineering controls:

- Direct flow of students
- Modify classroom layouts
- Provide visual cues or guides (tape on floors, signs on walls)



Tape on floor to indicate safe spacing of desks.





## Physical Distancing



Classes can be moved outside if the conditions are favorable.



CDC



# Respiratory Hygiene

## Administrative controls:

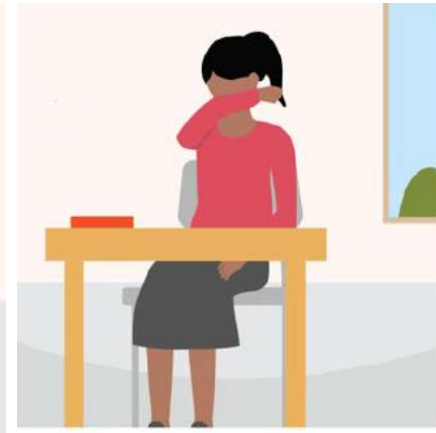
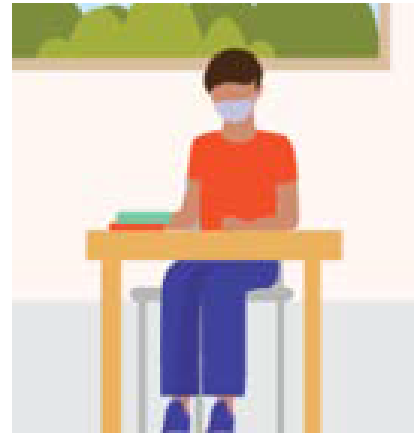
- Require masks for students, staff, and visitors
- Teach cough and sneeze etiquette with follow-up hand hygiene
- Post signs with visual cues on proper mask use and cough and sneeze etiquette; ensure they are in accessible language and formats

## Considerations and Challenges:

- If consistent mask use is difficult for young children, prioritize times of highest risk for them to wear masks and teach about properly wearing masks
- Wearing masks may be difficult for people with cognitive, sensory, or behavioral issues.
  - Accommodate students who cannot wear masks by encouraging distance learning or hosting classes in areas with increased ventilation/airflow

## Engineering controls:

- Increase appropriate ventilation and airflow of school building by opening windows or hosting classes outside (if conditions allow)





# Hand Hygiene

## Administrative controls:

- Teach students and staff proper hand hygiene technique
- Require hand hygiene upon entry and exit of school and other key times
- Schedule frequent hand hygiene
- Have a plan to ensure soap and water are maintained throughout the day

## Considerations and Challenges:

- Cost and availability of necessary hygiene materials
- Access to water on site
- People with disabilities may require assistance with hand hygiene
- Alcohol-based hand rub ( $\geq 60\%$  alcohol) can be used if running water and soap are not available; requires supervision to prevent ingestion

## Engineering controls:

- Place handwashing stations at entrances/exits, within classrooms, near toilets, and near eating or food preparation areas
- Ensure handwashing stations follow hand hygiene behavior change principles



Nudges, or visual cues, to prompt students to sanitize their hands.





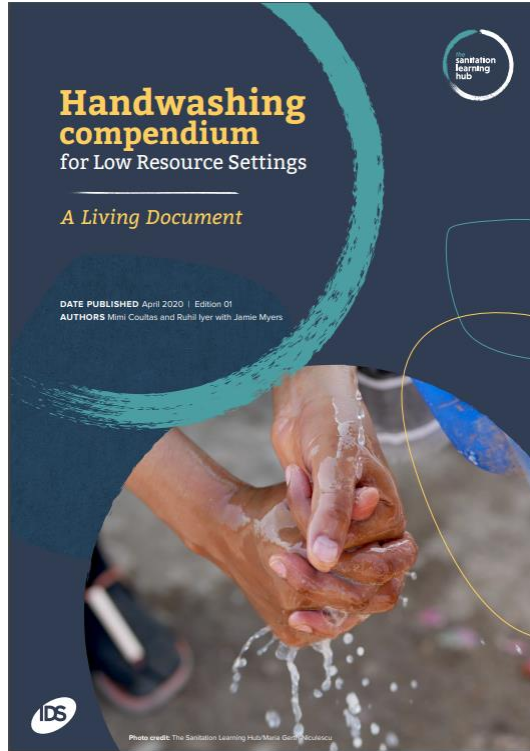


# Hand Hygiene





# Hand Hygiene



Photos: Victoria Trinies, CDC





# Cleaning and Disinfection

## Administrative controls:

- Require increased frequency of cleaning and disinfection of high touch surfaces – at least daily
- Education on proper cleaning and disinfecting materials and procedures
- Provide cleaning staff with written or pictorial instructions on cleaning procedures

## Considerations and Challenges:

- Costs and availability of cleaning supplies and PPE
- Access to water onsite
- Large-scale spraying of disinfectant in schools or on school buses is **not** recommended

## Engineering controls:

- Provide cleaning staff with the necessary cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE)





# Cleaning and Disinfection

## How to make 0.1% chlorine solution to disinfect surfaces: Non-healthcare settings

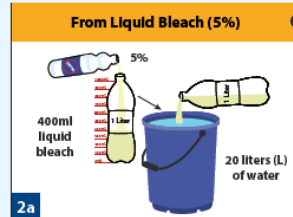
Use 0.1% (1,000 ppm) chlorine solution to disinfect frequently touched surfaces and items. **Make new 0.1% chlorine solution every day.** Safely dispose of any leftover solution in a latrine or toilet/drain connected to a septic system or sewer.

Proceed with **only one** of the following: 2a or 2b or 2c



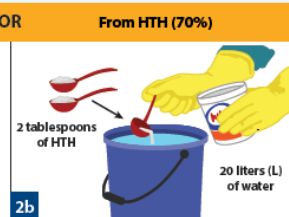
1

Make sure to wear rubber gloves, a thick apron, closed toe shoes, a face mask and eye protection such as safety glasses to avoid splashes.



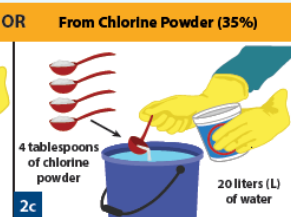
2a

Step 1: Pour 400mL of 5% liquid bleach into a clean 20-L bucket. Step 2: Fill bucket with water (or 1 part liquid bleach and 49 parts water for any volume)



2b

Add TWO tablespoons (30g) of high-test hypochlorite (HTH) (70%) to 20-L of water in a bucket.



2c

Add FOUR tablespoons (60g) of chlorine powder (35%) to 20-L of water in a bucket.

Note: For 10-L bucket, use half the quantity of chlorine specified.



3

Stir well with stick for 10 seconds, or until chlorine powder/granules have dissolved.



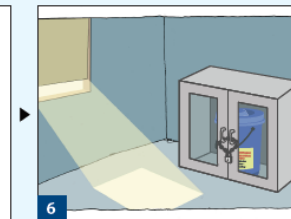
4

Label bucket "NOT FOR DRINKING OR HANDWASHING/BATHING. 0.1% Chlorine Solution - Disinfecting."



5

Tightly cover bucket with lid.



6

Do not store in direct sunlight. Store supplies in a secured location, out of reach of children and away from fire/flames.



Supplies Needed

### WARNING

Do NOT mix chlorine solution with other cleaning products or chemicals.

Do NOT put chlorine solution in mouth or eyes.

Seek medical attention if chlorine is inhaled or breathing becomes difficult due to exposure.

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# Screening and Monitoring

## Administrative controls:

- Develop policies for students and staff to stay home if diagnosed with COVID-19 or in contact with a person with COVID-19
- Identify a point of contact within the school for students, parents, and staff to notify of symptom onset or diagnosis
- Develop plans for screening procedures and follow-up for people with positive screening results

## Engineering controls:

- Establish symptom screening stations with appropriate materials (no-touch thermometer, gloves, etc.)

## Considerations and Challenges:

- Fear of falling behind, lost wages, stigma, or other consequences of staying home
- Encourage students, staff, and their families to monitor themselves for symptoms
- Encourage testing if symptomatic and testing is available



# Measures if someone gets sick at school

## Before

- Tell staff and families to stay home from school if they have COVID-19 symptoms, are diagnosed with COVID-19, are waiting for test results, or have been exposed to someone with symptoms, or confirmed or probable COVID-19
- Develop a system for staff and families to report their diagnosis to the school, and notify positive case's contacts

## When

- Immediately but discretely separate people with COVID-19 symptoms or those who test positive for COVID-19
- Close areas used by the sick person for 24 hours to reduce risk of virus exposure to cleaning staff; clean and disinfect after 24 hours
- Advise sick people that they should not return to school until they have met local/national criteria to stop home isolation

## After

- Notify local health officials, staff, and families
- Notify staff and families of closures and restrictions put in place due to possible exposure to someone with COVID-19
- Advise close contacts to stay home, self-monitor for symptoms, and follow local/national guidance if symptoms develop
- Clean and disinfect areas used by the sick person. Wait 24 hours before cleaning and disinfection; if 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible

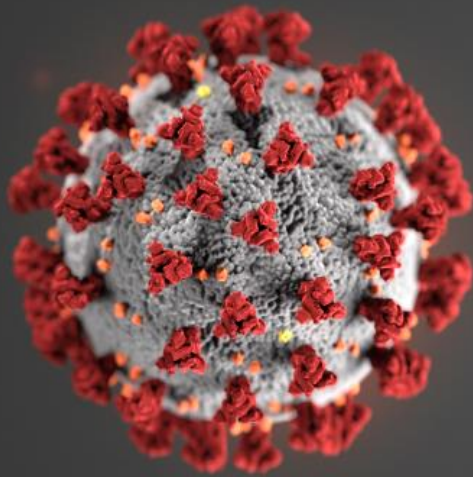




# Resource links

- [Operational considerations for schools in non-US settings](#)
- [Defining frequent hand hygiene](#)
- [Considerations for screening and monitoring](#)
- [Guidance on physical barriers and guides](#)
- [Guidance on PPE for staff](#)
- [Physical distancing considerations for food meal programs/services](#)
- [Guidance for students with developmental or behavioral disorders](#)
- [Guidance on cleaning and disinfecting schools](#)
- [Feasibility assessment for screening stations inside schools](#)





For more information, contact CDC  
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)  
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

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

