
Shared Core Principles and Processes for Working with Schools, Fall 2021

1. We recognize the many unique school environments across our health districts. For this reason, we respect and support the various tailored policies that each school district is using to provide a safe environment for students to be healthy and to continue learning.
2. We remain committed to working with our schools to keep students, faculty, and staff safe from COVID-19. Continued communication and partnership between schools and public health remains critical to our shared efforts against COVID-19.
3. We anticipate a surge in cases this fall due to the Delta variant of COVID-19 and recognize that it poses a particular risk to the health and wellbeing of our children.
4. We share the goal of assuring schools stay safe and open with students attending in person. We recognize and value the unique nature of schools' role in the economic and mental wellbeing of children and adults.
5. We will continue to monitor COVID-19 community transmission (positivity, incidence – 7-day average of daily new cases), vaccination rates, and hospital capacity. We will make local recommendations based on these metrics, current science, CDC guidance, and any current local or state directed health measures that may be implemented. The Delta variant has a rapidly evolving nature. We will provide current updated data to schools for use in decision making processes. Protocols/policies will likely need to be revised to align with current local and state data as well as evolving science and best practices.
6. We will continue to promote and encourage layered prevention practices that are evidence-based, such as frequent handwashing, use of alcohol-based sanitizer, social distancing, cohorting, staying home when sick, cleaning high-touch surfaces, and the use of facial coverings (masks) by staff and students.



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