



Back-to-School FAQs for 2021-22 School Year

Is it safe for students to return to school for in-person instruction?

The experiences of other places around the country and world where students have remained in class show the risk of transmission among children wearing masks is very low, even with reduced spacing between desks. Some children will still get sick, but COVID spreading in schools among students is much less common than COVID spread in the community or from indoor social gatherings, like birthday parties and weddings. Children have mostly gotten COVID-19 from adults at home.

Research also shows that most children do not get as sick from COVID as adults. The most at-risk people on school campuses are actually adult teachers and staff, which is why it is important for all eligible age groups to get vaccinated to prevent infection and spread.

Will there need to be social distancing in classrooms?

The state is not requiring minimum distancing in classrooms for the 2021-22 school year. Research suggests that in-person instruction can happen safely without minimum distancing if other prevention strategies, such as masking, are used.

Will my children need to wear a mask in class?

Yes. The state requires K-12 students to wear masks indoors with limited exceptions for children who can't wear masks because of medical reasons. Masks are optional outdoors in all K-12 school settings.

Do students need to wear masks in class even if they're vaccinated?

Yes, the state is requiring all K-12 students to wear masks in classrooms regardless of vaccination status just to be safe. Also, this is easier for schools to manage since they won't have to verify students' vaccination status.



Back-to-School FAQs for 2021-22 School Year

What are ways to avoid transmission of COVID-19 transmission in schools?

- Vaccines for children 12 and older, along with all adults in your family
- Masks worn by all students and school staff indoors
- Good ventilation in classrooms
- Keep your child home from school if they are sick
- Wash hands frequently