

CDC Guidelines for Re-opening Schools for K-12

(Updated Feb 12, 2021)

EHA Consulting Group,
Inc.



Mitigation strategies to reduce transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in schools



The Five Key Steps to Re-opening

- 1) **Universal and correct use of masks**
- 2) **Physical distancing**
- 3) **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**
- 4) **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities**
- 5) **Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the health department**



Correct Use of Masks

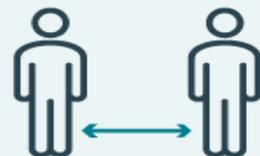
- Most students, even those with disabilities, will tolerate wearing a mask. Gators and bandanas are not appropriate masks.
- Double masks are now recommended when possible (surgical masks)
- Staff should wear masks correctly and consistently to role model
- Masks with exhalation valves or vents, those that use loosely woven fabrics, and ones that do not fit properly are not recommended.



ACT NOW!



WEAR A MASK



STAY 6 FEET APART



AVOID CROWDS

Physical distancing

- **Cohorts:** develop pods to keep students and staff together throughout the day
- **Stagger Schedules:** Allow students to arrive and depart class at separate times. Find ways to keep the hallways and shared spaces uncluttered.
- **Communal spaces:** Close communal use of shared spaces, such as dining halls, if possible. Consider using larger spaces such as dining halls for classes to maximize physical distancing.



Handwashing

Post signage in bathrooms for 20-second reminders.

Hand sanitizer should be available upon entry to each classroom

Keep an ample supply of **backup soap and sanitizer.**

Encourage students and staff to **cover coughs and sneezes** with a tissue when not wearing a mask and immediately wash their hands after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing.

Touchless faucets and trash cans are also recommended.



Cleaning and disinfecting to maintaining healthy facilities

Cleaning: Regularly clean and disinfectant with EPA COVID-19 approved solutions with the proper dwell time frequently touched surfaces such as phones, door handles, sink handles, faucet handles and drinking fountains. within the school and on school buses at least daily or between use as much as possible. Record this on a cleaning log.

Modify classroom layouts: adjust layouts in classrooms and other settings to maximize physical space, such as by turning desks to face in the same direction. Use a tape measure to ensure desks are six feet apart.

Physical barriers and guides: Install physical barriers and provide guides such as tape on floors and arrows to promote physical distancing and minimize crowding. Tape on floors also allows staff to reposition desks at the end of each day.

Shared objects: Discourage sharing items, particularly those that are difficult to clean. From text books and computers to gym equipment all students should have their own. In some cases activities can be done remotely (e.g. using microscopes)



Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities Continued...

Water systems: turn off drinking fountains. Provide bottled water. Encourage students to bring their own water bottles.

Communal spaces: Close communal use of shared spaces such as dining halls and auditoriums, if possible; otherwise, stagger use and clean between use. Consider use of larger spaces such as dining halls for academic instruction, to maximize physical distancing and ventilation.



Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities Continued...

Food service: Deliver food to classrooms. Avoid offering any self-serve food or drink options such as hot and cold food bars, salad or condiment bars, and drink stations.

Ventilation: Open as many windows as possible as the weather permits. Upgrade filters in the HVAC to MERV-13. Use stand-alone HEPA filters/air scrubbers is recommend when feasible. Most of these units only cover about 500 square feet. It is likely you'll need more than one.



Contact tracing

Stay home when appropriate: Educate teachers, staff and families about the importance of isolation and quarantining. Use apps as a remote method to screen anyone who enters the school. Implement flexible sick leave. Train substitute teachers so there is adequate coverage when teachers are out sick.

Contact tracing: Schools should work with their health department to trace suspected COVID-19 cases. Each school should have at least one designated representative trained in such matters. Suspected contacts should be notified within 48 hours.



Contact tracing

Case investigation and contact tracing are essential. As schools resume in-person learning, case investigation and contact tracing with staff, teachers and students should be anticipated as a crucial strategy to remain open. Case investigation and contact tracing help to prevent further transmission of disease by separating people who have (or may have) COVID-19 from people who do not.

Prompt identification, self-quarantine, and monitoring will break the chain of transmission and stop the spread.



Indicators of Community Transmission



Indicators of Community Transmission

- The CDC recommends using two measures to determine the transmission risk level of a community.
 - Total number of new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days
 - Percentage of nucleic acid amplification tests (NAATs), including RT-PCR tests that are positive during the last 7 days.
- Community transmission levels are broken down into 4 categories
 - Low transmission
 - Moderate transmission
 - Substantial transmission
 - High transmission
- According to the CDC if the two indicators are on different levels, the actions corresponding to the higher threshold (see next slide) should be chosen.



Indicators of Community Transmission

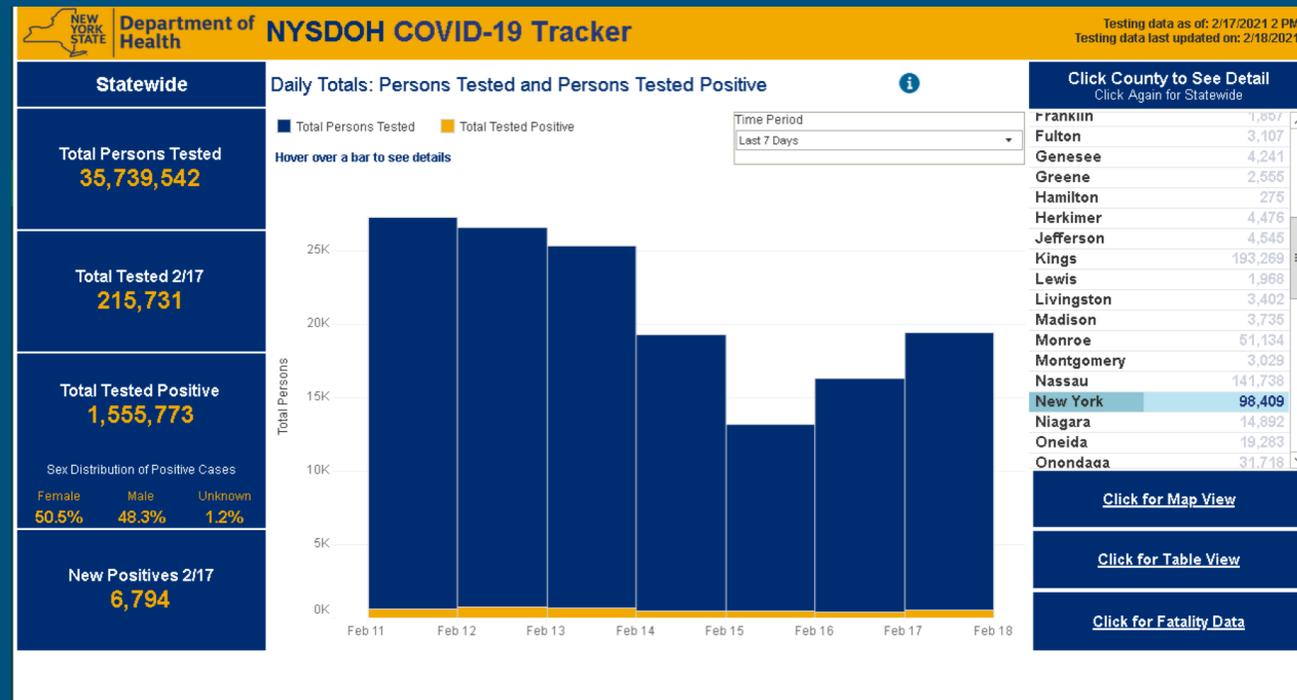
Indicator	Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days ²	0-9	10-49	50-99	≥100
Percentage of NAATs that are positive during the past 7 days ³	<5.0%	5.0%-7.9%	8.0%-9.9%	≥10.0%



Indicators of Community Transmission

Use your local health department website to assess the 7-day moving average in your area

See example:



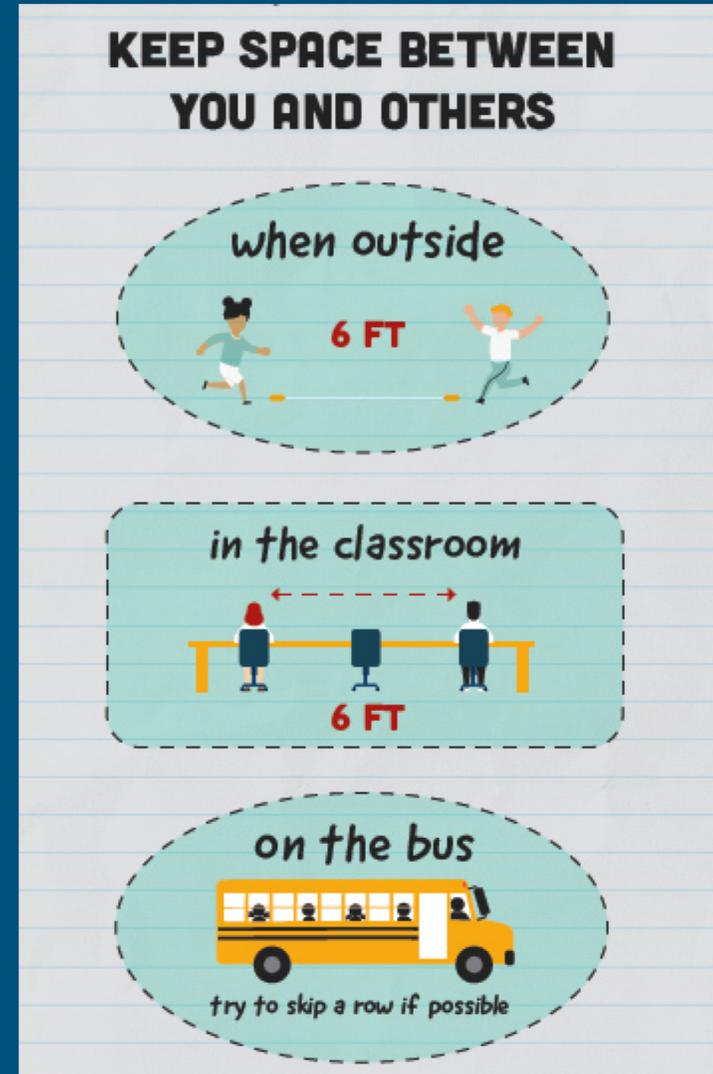
Phased Mitigation

(Without Screen Testing)



Phased Mitigation

- Restrict extra curricular activities like sports and band practice when necessary
- Always be prepared to close and transition to remote learning
- Monitor community COVID-19 rates daily for trends



Low & Moderate Transmission

- K-12 schools with low or moderate community transmission can open for full in-person instruction.
- Sports and extracurricular are permitted to occur during low transmission.
- During moderate transmission, 6 feet physical distancing is a requirement in order to have sports and extracurricular activities.



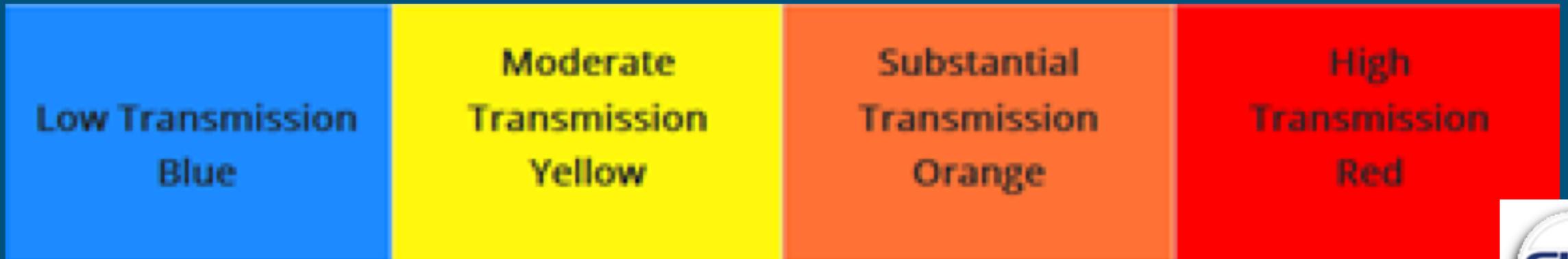
Substantial & High Transmission

- Elementary schools with substantial or high community transmission should operate in a hybrid learning mode. If in-person learning is being conducted, 6 feet distancing is required.
- Middle & high schools with substantial community transmission should operate in a hybrid learning mode. If in-person learning is being conducted, 6 feet distancing is required.
- Middle & high schools with high community transmission should operate in virtual learning. If mitigation strategies are strictly implemented then a school can open or remain open if they can maintain only having a few cases
- During substantial transmission, sports and extra curricular activities can only be held outdoors with 6 feet physical distancing in place.
- During high transmission sports and extracurricular activities can only be held virtually.



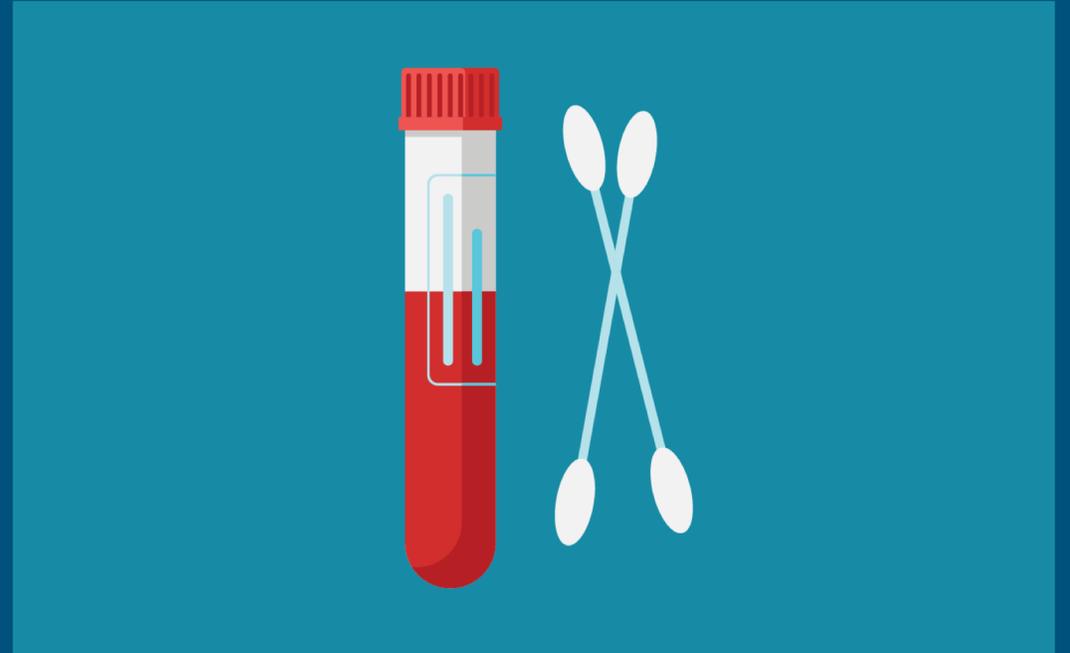
Any Transmission Level

- All schools K-12 regardless of transmission level must have the 5 key mitigation strategies (contact tracing, universal and correct use of masks, physical distancing, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities) in place.
- Diagnostic testing should be offered to symptomatic students, teachers, and staff and close contacts.



Screen Testing

- Screening testing is intended to identify infected individuals without symptoms who may be contagious so that measures can be taken to prevent further transmission.
- K-12 schools with any level of community transmission and offering testing, should offer that testing to teachers and staff once per week.
- Low transmission communities are not required to test students.



Screen Testing

- K-12 school Screening testing is intended to identify infected individuals without symptoms (or prior to development of symptoms) who may be contagious so that measures can be taken to prevent further transmission. Areas with moderate to high transmission should offer testing to students once a week.
- Once the proper screen testing mitigation strategy is in place, K-12 schools will continue to follow the phased school status mitigation outlined earlier.



Thank You

If your school would like additional information, including an in-person consultation, contact us immediately.

We would be pleased to provide you with detailed information on our credentials, recent experiences, and capabilities.

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