

# STATE SCHOOL REOPENING PLANS

When students return to school for the start of the 2020-2021 academic year, their schools and classes will look very different than they did in March. State government officials in all 50 states and Washington DC are releasing considerations to safely reopen schools. In general, these considerations are non-mandated guidance, though some include mandated requirements for schools such as masks for all students and staff. All state guidance documents acknowledge that local school districts should have flexibility to make decisions to accommodate local needs.

Many states' school reopening guidelines were released before the AAP released [COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Re-entry](#). The AAP guidance notes:

- All policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school.
- School policies must be flexible and nimble in responding to new information, and administrators must be willing to refine approaches when specific policies are not working.
- It is critically important to develop strategies that can be revised and adapted depending on the level of viral transmission in the school and throughout the community and is done with close communication with state and/or local public health authorities and recognizing the differences between school districts, including urban, suburban, and rural districts.
- Policies should be practical, feasible, and appropriate for child and adolescent developmental stages.
- Special considerations and accommodations to account for the diversity of youth should be made, especially for vulnerable populations—including those who are medically fragile, live in poverty, have developmental challenges, or have special health care needs or disabilities—with the goal of safe return to school.
- No child or adolescent should be excluded from school unless required in order to adhere to local public health mandates or because of unique medical needs. Pediatricians, families, and schools should partner together to collaboratively identify and develop accommodations, when needed.
- School policies should be guided by supporting the overall health and well-being of all children, adolescents, their families, and their communities. These policies should be consistently communicated in languages other than English, if needed, based on the languages spoken in the community, to avoid marginalization of parents/guardians who are of limited English proficiency or do not speak English at all.

The AAP policy guidance also includes considerations on physical distancing, transportation and busing, meal periods, cleaning and disinfecting, face coverings, and unique considerations for children with disabilities and special education students.

State school reopening guidance is expected to be updated over the course of the summer. AAP chapters can work with state (and local) education and health officials to ensure that pediatricians are at the table as decisions about school reopening are made and to advocate for the overall health and well-being of children and adolescents in their communities. The charts below break down state guidance addressing face coverings, social distancing, health screening, and alternative school schedules and instructional models. It is not meant to be fully exhaustive of the policies addressed in school reopening. For more information about your state's school reopening plan, please see the links to state guidance included in the appendix or contact the AAP State Advocacy Team at [stgov@aap.org](mailto:stgov@aap.org).



# STATE SCHOOL REOPENING PLANS | FACE COVERINGS

State	Face Covering Requirements for Teachers/Staff	Face Covering Requirements for Students Grades PK-1	Face Covering Requirements for Students Grades 2-5	Face Covering Requirements for Students Grades 6-12	Face Covering Requirements for Bus Drivers
Alabama					
Alaska					
Arizona					
Arkansas					
California	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Colorado	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Connecticut	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Delaware	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dist of Columbia					
Florida					
Georgia					
Hawaii	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Idaho	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Illinois	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Indiana					
Iowa					
Kansas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Kentucky	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Louisiana					
Maine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maryland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Massachusetts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michigan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mississippi					
Missouri	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



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State	Face Covering Requirements for Teachers/Staff	Face Covering Requirements for Students Grades PK-1	Face Covering Requirements for Students Grades 2-5	Face Covering Requirements for Students Grades 6-12	Face Covering Requirements for Bus Drivers
Montana					
Nebraska					
Nevada					
New Hampshire	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New Jersey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New Mexico	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New York	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
North Dakota					
Ohio	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oklahoma					
Oregon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pennsylvania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Rhode Island	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
South Carolina					
South Dakota					
Tennessee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Texas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Utah	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vermont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Washington	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia					
Wisconsin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wyoming	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Highlighted states have not released guidance as of 7/16/2020.

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



Last Updated 7/16/2020

# STATE SCHOOL REOPENING PLANS | SOCIAL DISTANCING

State	Reduced Class Size	Temperature Checks	Desks 6 Feet Apart	Student Class Grouping/Cohorts	Hallway Directions/Capacity Limits	School Bus Consideration	Alternate Schedules/Redesign School Day	Opt-in Virtual Learning	Non-Communal Meal Periods
Alabama		School				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alaska		School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Arizona	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Arkansas				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
California	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Colorado									
Connecticut	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Delaware	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Home	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dist of Columbia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Florida	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Georgia		Home			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hawaii			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Idaho		School		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Illinois		Home/School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Indiana		Home		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Iowa									
Kansas			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kentucky	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Louisiana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	School		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Maine		School		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Maryland	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Home/School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Massachusetts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Michigan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Home	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mississippi		School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Missouri		Home	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



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State	Reduced Class Size	Temperature Checks	Desks 6 Feet Apart	Student Class Grouping/Cohorts	Hallway Directions/Capacity Limits	School Bus Consideration	Alternate Schedules/Redesign School Day	Opt-in Virtual Learning	Non-Communal Meal Periods
Montana			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nebraska	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Home/School		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nevada		Home/School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New Hampshire	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New Jersey		Home/School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New Mexico		School		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
New York		School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
North Carolina		School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
North Dakota	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ohio		School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Oklahoma	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Home	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Oregon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Home	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pennsylvania	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rhode Island	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Home		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
South Carolina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
South Dakota	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Home/School		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tennessee		School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Texas		Home	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Utah			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Vermont		School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Virginia	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Washington		School							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
West Virginia						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wisconsin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	School	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wyoming		Home	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Highlighted states have not released guidance as of 7/16/2020

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## Alabama

- June 2020: Department of Education released [Roadmap for Reopening Schools](#), an informational summary of ideas, research, experience, and expertise of dozens of educators, healthcare professionals, and logistics specialists.

## Alaska

- June 4, 2020: The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development released the [Alaska Smart Start 2020](#) guidance. The guidance offers instructions for schools operating in low-risk, medium-risk, and high-risk environments.

## Arizona

- June 29, 2020: Governor Doug Ducey ordered public schools to delay the start of the school year until at least August 17.
- June 1, 2020: The Arizona Department of Education released [Arizona Roadmap for Reopening Schools](#) for the 2020-2021 school year. The guidance includes screening students before entry, face covering requirements, smaller class sizes, and the elimination of communal dining halls.

## Arkansas

- June 24, 2020: Arkansas Department of Education Commissioner Johnny Key released updated [guidance for schools](#). The new guidance recommends that students older than 10 wear face coverings while riding on the bus and that younger students wear face coverings whenever practical.
- June 5, 2020: The Arkansas Department of Education released its 26-page Arkansas Ready for Learning plan. The plan requires face coverings for staff and students older than 10, social distancing requirements, and staggered mealtimes to limit cafeteria capacity.

## California

- June 8, 2020: The California Department of Education released [Stronger Together: A Guidebook for the Safe Reopening of California's Public Schools](#). The guidance includes temperature checks before entering schools or buses, face coverings for staff and students, and physical distancing requirements.

## Colorado

- June 22, 2020: Colorado has issued draft [Framework and Toolkit for School and District Leaders for Feedback](#). More guidance is expected in July.

## Connecticut

- June 29, 2020: Connecticut Department of Education released [Adapt. Advance. Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together](#), guidance for school reopening.



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## Delaware

- July 15, 2020: The Delaware Department of Education released [Returning to School: Planning a Safe, Efficient, and Equitable Return to School for Students and Staff](#), guidance for reopening schools for the 2020-2021 school year. Districts will use the guidance to create reopening plans that account for in-person, hybrid, and distance learning models

## District of Columbia

- May 21, 2020: ReOpen DC announced the release of the [Education and Childcare Committee Recommendations to the ReOpen DC Advisory Group Steering Committee](#). These recommendations provide strategies the city can implement to identify new tools or resources needed for reopening all aspects of education across DC, close the digital divide, reimagine physical learning environments, and improve distance learning practices.

## Florida

- June 11, 2020: Governor Ron DeSantis announced that he expected schools to reopen at full capacity in August. The Florida Department of Education released [Reopening Florida's Schools and the CARES Act](#) which included social distancing guidelines, the conversion of common spaces (such as libraries, gyms, and auditoriums) into classroom areas, and disinfection protocols.

## Georgia

- The Georgia Department of Education in collaboration with the Georgia Department of Health released [Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools](#) which provides considerations, recommendations, and best practices to ensure a safe and successful 2020-2021 school year. This guidance is not mandated, and local school districts have the authority and flexibility to meet their individual needs and be responsive to their communities.

## Hawaii

- June 28, 2020: The Hawaii Department of Education released [Return to Learn: State School Reopening Plan](#) which public schools are using to prepare safe and healthy learning environments and worksites for the upcoming 2020-21 school year.

## Idaho

- July 10, 2020: The Idaho Board of Education in conjunction with the Department of Health and Welfare released the state's reopening guidelines [Back to School Framework: 2020](#).

## Illinois

- June 23, 2020: Governor J.B. Pritzker released [Starting the 20-21 School Year](#) guidance which outlines recommendations for reopening Illinois schools.



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## Indiana

- June 5, 2020: Indiana released [Indiana's Considerations for Learning and Safe Schools](#). The guidelines include requiring face coverings and social distancing rules. Schools in Indiana can reopen for in-person instruction beginning July 1.

## Iowa

- June 25, 2020: The Iowa Department of Education released [Reopening Guidance for Schools](#) as a resource for school administrators reopening schools and announced that schools would be allowed to reopen beginning July 1. Officials announced that there would be no requirement for students or staff to wear face coverings, undergo health checks, or social distance.

## Kansas

- July 15, 2020: The Kansas Department of Education released [Navigating Change: Kansas' Guide to Learning and School Safety Operations](#).

## Kentucky

- May 15, 2020: The Kentucky Department of Education released [Guidance on Safety Expectations and Best Practices for Kentucky Schools](#) for schools to reopen for the 2020-2021 school year. Before opening, schools would be required to identify a Healthy at Work officer, create a Healthy at Work communications plan, educate and train employees, establish contact tracing procedures, establish calendar, enrollment, and attendance guidelines, and create a plan for sudden closures or extended periods of remote learning.

## Louisiana

- June 26, 2020: Louisiana Department of Education released [Start Strong 2020 Louisiana's Plan: A Planning Guide for School Systems in Implementing Priorities and Aligning Funding](#).

## Maine

- June 29, 2020: Maine Department of Education released [Framework for Return to Classroom Instruction](#) which provides options, ideas, and considerations for organizing the work of reintegrating back to in-person, classroom instruction

## Maryland

- June 25, 2020: Maryland Department of Education released [Maryland Together: Maryland's Recovery Plan for Education](#) which presents a number of strategies and considerations for school systems as communities move forward together to embrace the new normal of conducting school operations during and after the





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COVID-19 pandemic.

## Massachusetts

- June 24, 2020: Governor Charlie Baker released [Initial Fall School Reopening Guidance](#). The guidance requires all staff and students in second grade or higher to wear masks, social distancing of desks in classrooms, and students to eat breakfast and lunch in their classrooms.

## Michigan

- June 30, 2020: Governor Gretchen Whitmer released [MI Safe Schools: Michigan's 2020-21 Return to School Roadmap](#), a set of guidelines by which local districts can draft their own reopening plans for the fall. The guidelines, which include both requirements and recommendations, are tiered to the phases of the state's broader reopening plan.

## Minnesota

- June 18, 2020: Minnesota Department of Health has released [2020-2021 Planning Guide for Schools: Health Considerations for Navigating COVID-19](#) which provides guidance on required and recommended practices to safely reopen schools.

## Mississippi

- June 10, 2020: The Mississippi Department of Education released [Considerations for Reopening Schools](#), optional guidance for schools reopening in the fall. It contained recommendations for school districts to choose and implement one of three learning schedules: traditional, hybrid, or online.

## Missouri

- July 9, 2020: The Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) released a [document](#) that answers frequently asked questions (FAQs) about K-12 school reopening health-related guidance.

## Montana

- July 3, 2020: Montana Governor Steve Bullock and LT Governor Mike Cooley released the [Governor's Plan for Reopening Safe and Healthy Schools for Montana](#) to provide guidance for public schools to prepare to offer in-person instruction in the fall.

## Nebraska

- June 2020: The Nebraska Department of Education released [Launch Nebraska](#), a collection of tools, actions, opportunities, and resources to support the complex planning and preparation needed by Nebraska schools as they work to restart schools and transition students back to school buildings.



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## Nevada

- June 24, 2020: The Nevada Department of Education released [Nevada's Path Forward: A Framework for a Safe, Efficient, and Equitable Return to School Buildings](#). The guidance includes requirements for frequency of teacher-student contact, calendar changes, and implementing hybrid learning systems.

## New Hampshire

- July 15, 2020: New Hampshire Department of Education has released [New Hampshire K-12 Back to School Guidance](#).

## New Jersey

- June 26, 2020: The New Jersey Department of Education released [The Roadback-Restart and Recovery Plan for Education](#) that includes social distancing guidelines and a face-covering requirement for teachers and staff.

## New Mexico

- June 23, 2020: The New Mexico Department of Public Education released [New Mexico Public Education Department Reentry Guidance](#). The guidance requires students and staff to wear masks and eliminates large gatherings like pep rallies and assemblies.

## New York

- July 13, 2020: The New York Department of Education released [Recovering, Rebuilding, and Renewing: the Spirit of New York's Schools Reopening Guidance](#) and the New York Department of Health issued [Interim Guidance for In-Person Instruction at Pre-K to Grade 12 Schools during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#).
- The Board of Regents and the New York State Education Department have formed the [School Reopening Task Force](#) to help guide schools as they continue to educate our students – whether in person, remotely, or some combination of the two. Four regional Task Force meetings will be comprised of parents, teachers, school and district leaders, non-instructional staff, school board members, health experts and other interested parties from every region of the state.

## North Carolina

- June 30, 2020: The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services released [Strong Schools NC: Public Health Toolkit-Interim Guidance](#)-In for reopening schools to in-person instruction. The guidance includes more frequent cleanings, a temperature check for all individuals entering buildings or buses, and physical distancing guidelines.



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## North Dakota

- May 11, 2020: North Dakota released [North Dakota K-12 Smart Restart Guidance](#) which provides general guidelines for reopening schools. .

## Ohio

- July 2, 2020: Governor Mike DeWine released [Health & Safety Guidance for Ohio K-12 Schools](#) for reopening schools in the state. The guidelines include a requirement that all staff wear masks and a recommendation that students in third grade or higher wear masks.

## Oklahoma

- June 3, 2020: Oklahoma released [Return to Learn Oklahoma: A Framework for Reopening Schools](#) which includes a host of considerations for how districts can plan for a variety of contingencies that may impact the upcoming school year amid continued incidence of COVID-19.

## Oregon

- June 10, 2020: The Oregon Department of Education released [Ready Schools, Safe Learners](#) which provides guidance to the schools for the 2020-2021 school year. Under the plan, individual public and private schools will need to submit an Operational Blueprint for Reentry to their local public health authority before they reopen.

## Pennsylvania

- June 24, 2020: The Pennsylvania Department of Education released [Considerations for Reopening Pennsylvania Schools](#). This report summarizes existing research on COVID-19 and generates a Pennsylvania-specific body of research - both qualitative and quantitative - that can inform decision making around completion of local health and safety plans, preparations for resumption of in-person teaching and learning, and development of supports for student and staff wellness.

## Rhode Island

- June 19, 2020: Rhode Island Department of Health and Rhode Island Department of Education released [Back to School RI: Health and Safety Guidance to Reopen Rhode Island's Elementary and Secondary Schools](#). This guidance will be updated regularly as more evidence emerges about COVID-19 and how to keep students and teachers safe.

## South Carolina

- June 22, 2020: South Carolina Superintendent of Education Molly Mitchell Spearman released [DRAFT: AccelerateED Task Force Guidance and Recommendations for 2020-21 School Year](#). The recommendations included required face coverings for all students and staff, social distancing protocols, one-way hallways, staggered arrivals and dismissals, and buses operating at 50 percent capacity.



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## South Dakota

- June 10, 2020: South Dakota Department of Education and Department of Health released [Starting Well](#) to provide guidance for reopening and daily operations in SY 2020-21, recognizing that schools will need to be flexible and adjust to changing conditions.

## Tennessee

- June 8, 2020: The Tennessee Department of Education released [Reopening Schools: Overview Guide for Local Education Authorities \(LEAs\)](#). The document does not require Tennessee school districts to adopt any approach but provides suggestions and best practices for safely reopening, including requiring students and staff to wear masks and setting staggered schedules.

## Texas

- July 7, 2020: Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath released [SY 20-21 Public Health Planning Guidance](#). Parents will be able to choose between on-campus and distance learning options. Masks will also be required in school buildings.
- June 18, 2020: Education Commissioner Mike Morath said that the state's schools would open to students in the fall.

## Utah

- June 29, 2020: Utah State Board of Education issued [Planning Requirements and Recommendations for K-12 School Reopening- Addendum to Utah Leads Together Color-coded Guidelines](#). The plan allows for local districts to make decisions based on state recommendations, although it does include specific mandates that all districts must follow. Local districts must post public reopening plans online by August 1.

## Vermont

- June 17, 2020: The Vermont Agency of Education and Vermont Department of Health released [A Strong and Healthy Start- Safety and Health Guidance for Reopening Schools](#). The guidance includes health checks on entry, staggered drop-off and pickup times, and hand sanitizing stations at entrances.

## Virginia

- June 9, 2020: Governor Ralph Northam announced that schools would reopen to in-person instruction for the 2020-2021 school year. The state released [Phase Guidance for Virginia Schools](#) for a three-phase reopening. Phase One has remote learning as the dominant teaching strategy, while Phase Two allows in-person instruction for preschool through third grade, and Phase Three allows in-person instruction for all students.



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## Washington

- June 11, 2020: Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal released [Reopening Washington Schools 2020 District Planning Guide](#). The guidelines require face coverings for all students and staff and the development of alternate instruction plans for each school. Reykdal said that his expectation was for schools to reopen to in-person instruction in the fall.

## West Virginia

- June 2020: The West Virginia Department of Education has created a [School System Re-Entry & Recovery Guidance](#) Web page. The West Virginia Department of Education has worked closely with the COVID-19 Outbreak to Recovery Advisory Council to vet, review and inform guidance for school re-entry in the fall and to serve as a framework for counties to consider when making local-level decisions

## Wisconsin

- June 22, 2020: The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction released [Education Forward: Safely and Successfully Reopening Wisconsin Schools](#). The guidance outlined several scenarios for physical distancing, including four-day school weeks, a two-day rotation, an a/b week rotation, and virtual learning.

## Wyoming

- July 1, 2020: The Wyoming Department of Education released [Smart Start Wyoming](#). The state's 48 school districts are responsible for developing reopening plans in accordance with the guidance and submitting those plans for approval by the state. Each plan must account for three scenarios: traditional learning, hybrid learning (a mix of in-person and distance learning), and distance-only learning.

