

Guidelines for Childcare & K-12 Schools

For additional information, please visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

The Ohio Department of Health follows the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) interim guidelines to prevent the introduction and spread of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) into childcare facilities and schools.

Through collaboration and coordination with local health departments, childcare facilities and schools can take steps to disseminate information about the disease and its potential transmission within their community. Schools should continue to collaborate, share information, and review plans with local health officials to help protect the whole school community, including those with special health needs.

Schools and childcare facilities should:

- Review attendance and sick leave policies; encourage students/children and staff to stay home when sick and establish procedures to ensure student/children and staff who become sick or arrive sick are sent home as soon as possible.
- Perform routine environmental cleaning.
- Create communications plans for use with the school/childcare community.
- Administrators should plan to provide critical support services, such as continuity of education and continuity of meal programs, if schools are dismissed or childcare facilities closed.

Administrators, staff, teachers, and other personnel are reminded to fight stigma by supporting people who are coming back to school or work after completing a quarantine or isolation period for COVID-19 exposure or illness. Someone who has completed their quarantine or met the requirements to discontinue infection control measures does not pose a risk of spreading COVID-19. Childcare facilities and schools are reminded that viruses cannot target people from specific populations, ethnicities, or racial backgrounds. People of Asian descent, including Chinese Americans, are not more likely to get or spread coronavirus disease 2019 than anyone else.

Resources

- [CDC Guidance for Schools](#).
- [Preventing COVID-19 Spread in Communities](#).