

Decision Tree for Provision of in Person Learning among Public and Private K-12 Students during COVID-19

Should your community provide in person learning and for whom?

For School Administrators, Local Health Officers, and Community Stakeholders

The risk of COVID-19 being introduced into the school depends on the level of COVID-19 spread in the community and the health and safety measures taken by schools. Consider the following educational modalities based on community transmission and other health and education risks and benefits.

COVID-19 Activity Level	Education Modality*	Extracurricular
HIGH >75 cases/100K/14 days Other considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing trend in cases or hospitalizations Test positivity >5% Other health and education risks and benefits to children and their families 	Strongly recommend distance learning with the option for limited in-person learning in small groups, or cohorts, of students for the highest need students, such as students with disabilities, students living homeless, those farthest from educational justice, and younger learners.	Strongly recommend canceling or postponing all in person extra-curricular activities, including sports, performances, clubs, events, etc.
MODERATE 25–75 cases/100K/14 days Other considerations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing trend in cases or hospitalizations Test positivity >5% Other health and education risks and benefits to children and their families 	Recommend distance learning as described above. In addition, consider expanding in person learning to elementary students. Over time, consider adding hybrid in person learning for middle or high school students if limited COVID transmission occurs in schools.	Strongly recommend canceling or postponing all in-person extra-curricular activities. Consider low risk activities when all students have some level of in person learning.
LOW <25 cases/100K/14 days	Encourage full-time in person learning for all elementary students and hybrid learning for middle and high school. Over time and if physical space allows, consider full-time in person learning for middle and high school.	Consider low and moderate risk in person extra-curricular activities.

When any in-person



Can the school(s) implement recommended COVID-19 health and safety measures?

For School Administrators and Staff

The risk of COVID-19 spreading in schools depends on the ability of the school to implement [DOH's K-12 health and safety measures](#).

Does the school have the plans, staff, space, and supplies to do the following?

- ✓ Protect staff and students at higher risk for severe COVID-19 while ensuring access to learning
- ✓ Transport or facilitate drop-off and pick-up of students
- ✓ Group students (required in elementary, recommended for middle and high school)
- ✓ Practice physical distancing of ≥6 feet among students and staff.
- ✓ Promote frequent hand washing or sanitizing
- ✓ Promote and ensure face covering use among students and staff
- ✓ Increase cleaning and disinfection
- ✓ Improve ventilation

Are all staff trained on health and safety practices?

When all YES



Is the school and health system ready to monitor for and respond to suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19?

For Schools and Local Public Health

COVID-19 cases in the school should be expected. The risk of COVID-19 spreading in schools depends on the ability to quickly identify and respond to suspected and confirmed cases and the level of community transmission.

- ✓ Can the school ensure monitoring of symptoms and history of exposure among students and staff? (attestation acceptable)
- ✓ Is the school prepared to manage students and/or staff who get sick onsite?
- ✓ Does the school have letters drafted to inform families and staff about confirmed cases or outbreaks?
- ✓ Is there adequate access to testing in the community health system for ill students and staff?
- ✓ Is there capacity in your local health department to investigate confirmed COVID-19 cases, quarantine their close contacts and assess whether transmission is occurring in the school?
- ✓ Can local public health monitor the level of community spread to determine when a change in education modality is needed?

When all YES

Begin in Person Learning Model and Monitor

*Staff may work in school at any COVID-19 activity level if the school follows DOH and LNI health and safety guidance