The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released new quarantine guidelines last week, and President Biden signed executive orders requiring masks on federal property, as well as airports, trains, ships, and intercity buses. In addition, he announced his plan for reopening schools – part of a larger proposal “to curb the pandemic while getting the country’s economy and schools back up and running”.

State leaders and local officials continue to reassess the impact of COVID-19 while trying to maintain community safety and health. With the report of new coronavirus strains and a rising number of cases in many communities, many districts and schools are still in remote learning. However, more districts are reopening or have announced plans to reopen within the next few weeks or once vaccines have been administered to school personnel.

The impact of a remote learning environment on students, the ability for districts to provide special education services, academic regression, and the overall mental health and wellbeing of students continue to be concerns expressed by families and educators. State education officials expressed concern regarding annual state testing assessments and graduation testing requirements, with some considering applying for similar waivers permitted last school year.

While a majority of schools continue to strive for a return to in-person learning, states continue to focus on vaccine distribution. In some legislatures, vaccination mandates and COVID-liability waivers are under consideration.

While the continued impact of pandemic is unclear, districts continue to adjust plans as state status and COVID-19 data is updated. One constant is schools remain flexible and are preparing for any changes that may arise.

The situation changes rapidly, and we try our best to maintain the information and links. Please visit your state department of education and local school district websites for the most current information.

Federal and Education Organizations

Covidschooltracker.com (School COVID-19 case data by state)

Statewide vaccination plans as of January 21

U.S. Department of Education COVID-19 Information and Resources
https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus
- What Congressional COVID Funding Means for K-12 Schools (Updated 2/10/21)

Pacific Disaster Center – COVID-19 Global Pandemic Dashboard
- US Status (12/17/20) - 48 states and territories have some type of mandated mask requirement.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- COVID-19 Vaccination Program Operational Guidance (11/6/20)
  - Executive summaries from the COVID-19 vaccine playbooks, a crucial step in the overall U.S. government effort to develop, distribute, and administer COVID-19 vaccines.
- Schools and Childcare Programs: Plan, Prepare, and Respond (Updated 1/20/21)
- CDC director says schools can safely reopen without vaccinating teachers (2/3/21)
Education Commission of the States

- **Key Issues: COVID (Seven Part Series)** – tracks state education policies related to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; this series provides overviews on key issues facing education leaders.
  - Changes to State Graduation Requirements
- **ECS COVID-19 Blog** – Quick reads on COVID-19 education topics

**College Board Corona Virus Updates**
- 2021 Advanced Placement (AP) Testing and Exams
- SAT and PSAT Coronavirus Updates
  - SAT Discontinues Subject Tests and Optional Essay (1/19/21)

**International Baccalaureate COVID-19 (Updated 1/6/21)**

**National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)**
- Updated Guidance for Fall (8/31/20)
- NFHS Releases Guidelines for Return to High School Marching Band Activities (6/9/20)
- Status of State Association Activity Restrictions (6/22/20)
- Fall 2020 Guidance for Music Education (6/22/20)
- NFHS Sports Medicine Position Statements and Guidelines (8/9/20)
- NFHS and NAFME: Copyright for Distance Learning (9/10/20)
- Sports Season Modifications Update (10/23/20)
- Course: COVID-19 for Coaches and Administrators
- NFHS Performing Arts COVID-19 Resources (11/13/20)
- Winter Sports Seasons Guide Breakdown (2/16/21)

**State Department of Education Webpages and Information**

**Alabama**
- State DOE: [https://www.alsde.edu/covid-19](https://www.alsde.edu/covid-19)
- Resources:
  - Roadmap for Reopening Schools
  - AHSAA Releases Best Practices Document and Fall Sports Rule Modifications (7/23/20)
  - Alabama Dept. of Health updates coronavirus toolkit for schools (10/13/20)
  - Alabama Public Health Department – Schools K-12 and Report Card
  - Alabama School COVID-19 Dashboard (1/20/21)
  - Alabama High School Athletics Association
- Articles
  - First Alabama School Dashboard of 2021 Shows State COVID-19 Cases Down, Local Cases Up (1/17/21)
  - Difficult Winter for Alabama Schools (1/18/21)
  - Alabama State Superintendent urges teachers to seek COVID-19 vaccines (2/3/21)
  - Alabama school systems sees decline in COVID-19 cases last week (2/15/21)

**Alaska**
- State DOE: [https://education.alaska.gov/safeschools/infectiousdisease](https://education.alaska.gov/safeschools/infectiousdisease)
- Resources:
  - Alaska’s Smart Start for K-12 Schools and Framework
  - ASAA COVID-19 Resources
  - Alaska School Activities Association
• **Articles:**
  - [Alaska Schools Welcome Students Back to Classrooms](https://www.azed.gov/communications/2020/03/10/guidance-to-schools-on-covid-19/) (1/20/21)
  - [Tracking COVID-19 in Alaska](https://www.azed.gov/communications/2020/03/10/guidance-to-schools-on-covid-19/) (1/26/21)
  - [School district to allow youth sports at school gyms](https://www.azed.gov/communications/2020/03/10/guidance-to-schools-on-covid-19/) (2/4/21)
  - [State widens COVID-19 vaccine eligibility, bumping up teachers and others including at-risk Alaskans over 50](https://www.azed.gov/communications/2020/03/10/guidance-to-schools-on-covid-19/) (2/11/21)
  - [Alaska school district cases prompt sports mask restrictions](https://www.azed.gov/communications/2020/03/10/guidance-to-schools-on-covid-19/) (2/14/21)

**Arizona**

• **State DOE:** [https://www.azed.gov/communications/2020/03/10/guidance-to-schools-on-covid-19/](https://www.azed.gov/communications/2020/03/10/guidance-to-schools-on-covid-19/)

• **Resources:**
  - [Department of Education Releases Guidance for Reopening Arizona schools](https://www.azed.gov/communications/2020/03/10/guidance-to-schools-on-covid-19/) (6/1/20 11:20am)
  - [Roadmap for Reopening Schools](https://www.azed.gov/communications/2020/03/10/guidance-to-schools-on-covid-19/)
  - [COVID-19 School Benchmarks](https://www.azed.gov/communications/2020/03/10/guidance-to-schools-on-covid-19/) (11/19/20)
  - [Education, health leaders launch ‘Healthy Kids, Open Schools’ campaign amid COVID-19 surge](https://www.azed.gov/communications/2020/03/10/guidance-to-schools-on-covid-19/) (11/9/20)
  - [Statewide Tracker: School Learning Models](https://www.azed.gov/communications/2020/03/10/guidance-to-schools-on-covid-19/) (12/1/20)
  - [Arizona Interscholastic Association](https://www.azed.gov/communications/2020/03/10/guidance-to-schools-on-covid-19/)

• **Articles:**
  - [Schools return to in-person learning, many still concerned as COVID-19 cases rise in Arizona](https://www.azed.gov/communications/2020/03/10/guidance-to-schools-on-covid-19/) (1/18/21)
  - [Arizona School Chief calls on lawmakers to invest in education amid COVID-19](https://www.azed.gov/communications/2020/03/10/guidance-to-schools-on-covid-19/) (2/2/21)
  - [Arizona school counselors ask for help as COVID-19 put more stress on students](https://www.azed.gov/communications/2020/03/10/guidance-to-schools-on-covid-19/) (2/12/21)
  - [Arizona suspends school letter grades, Gov. Ducey orders study of learning loss](https://www.azed.gov/communications/2020/03/10/guidance-to-schools-on-covid-19/) (2/15/21)

**Arkansas**

• **State DOE:** [http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/divisions/communications/covid-19-information](http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/divisions/communications/covid-19-information)

• **Resources:**
  - [Arkansas Back-to-School Playbook](http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/divisions/communications/covid-19-information)
  - [State releases ’Arkansas Ready to Learn, Healthy School’ Guide](http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/divisions/communications/covid-19-information) (8/13/20)
  - [Arkansas Activities Association](http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/divisions/communications/covid-19-information)

• **Articles:**
  - [Arkansas residents 70+, teachers and school staff to begin getting COVID-19 shot](http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/divisions/communications/covid-19-information) (1/18/21)
  - [Active cases at Arkansas schools fall 12%](http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/divisions/communications/covid-19-information) (1/19/21)
  - [State’s 4-year graduate rate up](http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/divisions/communications/covid-19-information) (1/20/21)
  - [Key outlines $70 million in school spending in face of pandemic](http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/divisions/communications/covid-19-information) (2/14/21)
  - [Number of active covid-19 cases in state’s schools declines](http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/divisions/communications/covid-19-information) (2/16/21)

**California**

• **State DOE:** [https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/coronavirus.asp](https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/coronavirus.asp)

• **Resources:**
  - [COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Schools and School-Based Programs](https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/coronavirus.asp)
    - [Stronger Together: A guidebook for Safe Reopening of California’s Public Schools](https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/coronavirus.asp)
    - [Quick Guide: What California’s color-coded county tracking system means for schools](https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/coronavirus.asp) (8/31/20)
    - [BluePrint for a Safer Economy](https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/coronavirus.asp) (8/28/20)
    - [California Interscholastic Federation](https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/coronavirus.asp)

• **Articles:**
LA schools chief wants to launch California’s largest teacher vaccine effort (1/19/21)
California’s ban on high school sports still scheduled to end next week – for now (1/19/21)
Newsom opens up one-stop Covid information ‘hub’ on reopening schools (1/14/21)
Schools can move to safely reopen even if teachers are not all vaccinated (2/3/21)
Some California Schools Are Testing Kids For the coronavirus Twice a Week Before Letting Them Inside (2/11/21)
LA County hits threshold to let elementary schools reopen (2/16/21)

Colorado
State DOE: https://www.cde.state.co.us/safeschools
Resources:
- A Framework and Toolkit for District Leaders (5/7/20)
- FAQ: How Colorado high school football plans to return amid the coronavirus pandemic (10/7/20)
- Colorado Education Association Develops Model For School Districts When COVID Cases Rise (11/19/20)
- CHSAA: Sports Modifications for COVID-19
- Colorado High School Activities Association

Articles:
- What one Colorado superintendent has learned after a semester of school during COVID-19 (1/19/21)
- Active COVID-19 outbreaks at Colorado schools, ski areas, grocery stores and more (2/3/21)
- Some Colorado districts are exploring new ways to reduce risk of COVID through air (2/2/21)
- Health Measures Expected To Continue In Colorado Schools Next Year, Even With Student Vaccinations (2/15/21)
- COVID-19 hospitalizations, cases continue dropping statewide – but variants lurk around Colorado (2/16/21)

Connecticut
Resources:
- Governor Lamont Announces Plans for the 2020-2021 School year Amid the Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic (6/25/20)
  - Executive Summary
  - Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut’s Plan to learn and Grow Together Presentation
- Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference

Articles:
- CT residents ages 65-74 next in tiered COVID vaccination process (1/20/21)
- Education Secretary nominee Miguel Cardona testifies about returning children to school amid COVID-19 (2/3/21)
- CT Coronavirus Updates: School-By-School Cases (2/12/21)
- COVID-19 crisis brings new urgency to debate over eliminating religious vaccination exemption for Connecticut schoolchildren (2/16/21)

Delaware
State DOE: https://www.doe.k12.de.us/domain/599
Resources:
- State of Delaware Announces Guidance for Reopening of Schools for 2020-21 Academic Year (7/15/20)
Returning to School: Planning a Safe, Efficient and Equitable School Return for Students and Staff

Governor Carney Issues revision to Omnibus COVID-19 Order (10/10/20)

- In-Person Contagious School Cases Dashboard (1/5/21)
- Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association

- Articles:
  - Gov Carney, DPH Announce Transition to Vaccinate (1/19/21)
  - DIAA delays decision on football realignment, refines COVID return-to-play guidelines (2/4/21)
  - Del. COVID infection rate increases slightly, with 78 more deaths; hospitalizations increase (2/12/21)

District of Columbia

- Public Schools: https://dcps.dc.gov/coronavirus
- Resources:
  - School Year Term 1 will Begin Virtually (7/30/20) - Unified Virtual Start Date – August 31, with shift to possible hybrid model on November 9
  - OSSE: COVID-19 Guidance and Resources
- District of Columbia State Athletic Association
- Articles:
  - The COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution in the District of Columbia (1/21/21)
  - Coronavirus in DC, Maryland, Virginia: What to Know on Feb. 2
  - Thousands of DC public school students return to some classrooms (2/2/21)
  - DCPS Staff Eager to Resume In-Person Learning Receive Second Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine (2/15/21)
  - Coronavirus in DC, Maryland, Virginia: What to Know on Feb. 16

Florida

- State DOE: http://www.fldoe.org/em-response/
- Resources:
  - Reopening Florida’s Schools and the CARES Act (6/11/20)
  - Florida High School Athletic Association
- Articles:
  - Nearly 5,000 New COVID-19 Cases Related to Florida’s K-12 Schools in First Week of Spring Semester (1/20/21)
  - COVID cases related to FL K-12 schools have surpassed the 50,000 mark in just a little over a semester (2/1/21)
  - Some Florida teachers will soon get coronavirus vaccination (1/19/21)
  - Florida schools get more time for spring tests due to coronavirus concerns (2/15/21)
  - CDC issues school reopening guidelines: Florida education commissioner urges districts to ‘stay the course’ (2/15/21)

Georgia

- State DOE: https://www.georgiainsights.com/coronavirus.html
- Resources:
  - Georgia Department of Education Releases Reopening Guidelines for Schools (6/1/20)
  - Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools
  - High school football kicks off in Georgia amid COVID-19 (9/6/20)
  - SAT score waived for UGA, other Georgia college admissions, but still required for scholarships (9/14/20)
  - Georgia schools gain option to gut year-end tests amid COVID-19 pandemic (12/26/20)
- Georgia High School Association
- Articles:
State school superintendent asks lawmakers for more mental health, military-support services (1/21/21)
Teachers respond to CDC position that vaccinations not needed for returning to school: Enforce guidelines uniformly (2/3/21)
Atlanta school board to state: Move teachers up in vaccine line (2/3/21)
Kemp signs budget with bonuses, extra money for schools, health (2/15/21)
Georgia Lawmakers to Consider Telehealth Expansion in Schools (2/16/21)

Hawaii
- State DOE: https://bit.ly/3eExX4i
- Resources:
  - Guidance for Reopening Schools
  - Return to Learn (7/2/20)
  - Hawaii Health Department updates guidance for schools reopening (10/20/20)
  - Ready to Learn – BOE Metrics reporting
  - Hawaii High School Activities Association
- Articles:
  - Hawaii school employees begin receiving coronavirus vaccine (2/3/21)
  - Bill would mandate disclosure of COVID-19 cases at Hawaii public schools (2/3/21)
  - More public school students in Hawaii head back to campus (2/16/21)

Idaho
- State DOE: https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/resources-for-schools/
- Illinois Education Association: https://ieanea.org/covid-19/
- Idaho Board of Education: https://boardofed.idaho.gov
- Resources:
  - Board of Education allowing schools to reopen if they follow COVID-19 safety protocols (5/4/20)
    - School District and Charter School Re-Entry Criteria
  - Idaho High School Activities Association releases fall sports guidance (7/21/20, 9:41 AM)
  - Idaho High School Activities Association
- Articles:
  - Do we really want to go back to pre-COVID schools? (1/21/21)
  - Schools fight COVID-19 with air purification systems (2/1/21)
  - Idaho adds 10 COVID-19-related deaths, just over 500 combined cases on Sunday-Monday (2/1/21)
  - Some Idaho schools struggled to graduate seniors during pandemic-forced closures (2/8/21)
  - School districts face staff shortages with return to full-time (2/16/21)

Illinois
- State Board of Education: https://www.isbe.net/coronavirus
- Resources:
  - Starting the 2020-21 School Year (June 23, 2020) – Part 3 Transition and Joint Guidance
  - Illinois High School Association
- Articles:
  - New tool tracks COVID-19 cases in schools across Illinois (1/21/21)
  - Can football and basketball co-exist? The IHSA may soon find out. (1/22/21)
  - Idaho adds
  - All of Illinois back under Phase 4 of state’s COVID-19 plan as officials report 3,328 new cases, 69 deaths (2/4/21)
  - As most Illinois schools are 100% remote or in a hybrid model, some teachers reluctant to get COVID-19 vaccination (2/15/21)
  - Coronavirus in Illinois updates (2/16/21)
Indiana
- State DOE: https://www.doe.in.gov/safety/health/covid-19-resources-indiana-schools
- Resources:
  - Indiana’s Considerations for Learning and Safe Schools In-Class Guidance
  - Statewide COVID-19 map offers guidance for Indiana schools (9/5/20)
  - Indiana High School Athletic Association
- Articles:
  - Declines in positivity, hospitalizations delight Indiana leaders (1/21/21)
  - State’s COVID-19 transmission map shows 34 counties in red, 57 in orange after weekly update (1/21/21)
  - Indiana changing student COVID-19 close contact quarantine guidelines (2/3/21)
  - More than 1,100 additional COVID-19 cases reported Indiana schools, total nears 40,000 (2/15/21)
  - Indiana lawmakers send COVID-19 lawsuit shield to governor (2/15/21)

Iowa
- State DOE: https://educateiowa.gov/article/2020/04/03/covid-19-guidance-and-information
- Resources:
  - Reopening Guidance for Schools (6/25/20)
  - Iowa High School Athletic Association announces revised 2020 football schedule due to COVID-19 (7/24/20, 1:14 PM)
  - Iowa Dept. Of Education: COVID-19 Guidance and Information (10/7/20)
  - Iowa High School Athletic Association
- Articles:
  - Understanding In-Person Learning and the Spread of COVID-19 in the Classroom (1/21/21)
  - Iowa Lawmakers To Consider Requiring Schools To Offer Fully In-Person Learning During Pandemic (1/21/21)
  - This week in COVID-19: More deaths, Iowa public schools must offer in-person option (1/31/21)
  - As schools are forced to open, Iowa removes all COVID-19 regulations (2/8/21)
  - Education Through the Pandemic (2/16/21)

Kansas
- Resources:
  - Navigating Change: Kansas’ Guide to Learning and School Safety Operations (7/15/20)
  - Kansas schools prepare for winter sports under strict state guidelines (12/3/20)
  - Kansas State High School Athletics Association
- Articles:
  - Kansas High School Sports to Allow More Family and Friends at Games (1/21/21)
  - KS Democrats fight more health precautions, GOP pushes back (1/21/21)
  - KDHE names 3 active COVID clusters in Wichita, including a school and a nursing home (2/3/21)
  - Kansas schools rush to vaccinate teachers ahead of reopening (2/10/21)
  - Safety amid concerns of Kansas public school advocates, as lawmakers push to fully reopen by March (2/15/21)

Kentucky
- Resources:
  - KY Department of Education Releases Guidance for Schools to Reopen Safely this Fall (5/15/20)
COVID-19 Considerations for Reopening Schools - Initial Guidance for Schools and Districts (5/15/20)

COVID-19 Guidance for Schools: School-Related Travel (2/16/21)
- High school sports in Kentucky restart with COVID-19 safety measures (Updated 9/8/20)
- New K-12 COVID-19 Dashboard Live for Kentucky Schools to Self-Report Data (10/5/20)
- Healthy At School Guidelines: Guidance on Safety Expectations and Best Practices for Kentucky Schools (K-12)
- Kentucky High School Athletic Association

Articles
- Deadliest day of the pandemic in Kentucky as vaccinations plod forward (1/21/21)
- More than 80,000 Ky. School personnel and teachers sign-up for COVID-19 vaccine (1/22/21)
- New lawsuit seeks to force Kentucky public schools to reopen during the pandemic (2/3/21)
- 42 more Kentucky COVID-19 deaths and 1,440 new cases (2/12/21)
- Kentucky Department of Education releases new guidance for school-related travel (2/16/21)

Louisiana
- State DOE: https://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/covid-19
- Resources:
  - Reopening LA Schools, Adjusting 2020-21 Schedule Focus of ‘Strong Start’ Guidance (5/8/20 4:04pm)
    - Strong Start Planning Guide (6/25/20)
  - Performance of Louisiana school will not be fully updated on annual ‘report cards’ in 2020 (9/21/20)
  - Senate Education Committee Unanimously votes to advance The Ka Mauri Act (10/31/20)
    - Bill mandates school districts to write policies specifically for online learning
- Louisiana High School Athletic Association

Articles
- Jan. 20 Update
- Louisiana public schools lost 2% of students during the pandemic. See enrollment trends in your area. (1/21/21)
- Should Louisiana schools require coronavirus vaccines? Districts grapple with questions (1/23/21)
- Feb 10 Update: Louisiana parishes with highest student, adult, COVID-19 infections inequalities in Louisiana have been exacerbated by COVID-19 (2/16/21)

Maine
- State DOE: https://www.maine.gov/doe/covid-19
- Resources:
  - Maine Education Department Releases Initial Guidelines for Reopening Schools in Fall (6/14/20)
    - Working Draft: Return to Classroom Instruction Framework (6/11/20)
    - Return to Classroom Instruction Framework
  - No football, volleyball to be played at Maine high schools this fall (9/11/20)
  - Officials unveil dashboard of coronavirus cases in Maine schools (10/14/20)
  - Maine delays start date for winter sports practices and scrimmages to Jan. 4, 2021 (12/4/20)
- Maine Principals’ Association

Articles
- Maine schools get more funding under COVID-19 stimulus (1/7/21)
- Maine school districts struggle with staffing as COVID-19 cases continue to surge across state (1/20/21)
Four Maine counties remain yellow in COVID-19 school color system (1/15/21)
Maine DOE school designations (2/29/21)
Maine Schools Get Priority On More Than 250,000 Rapid COVID-19 Tests (2/16/21)
Maine: All counties now safe for in-school instruction (2/16/21)

Maryland
- State DOE: http://marylandpublicschools.org/Pages/default.aspx
- Resources:
  - A State Plan Outlines How Schools Could Change in Maryland (5/7/20 6:56pm)
    - Maryland’s Recovery Plan for Education (5/13/20 10:51am)
  - School Boards Across Maryland Consider How to Safely Bring Students Back Amid Coronavirus Pandemic (10/7/20)
  - Maryland schools get green light for earlier start to winter sports (10/26/20)
  - Five things to know about Maryland’s coronavirus dashboard (11/18/20)
  - Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association
- Articles:
  - Teachers look forward to receiving COVID-19 vaccines, get back to class (1/6/21)
  - A county-by-county look at how to make a coronavirus vaccine appointment in Maryland (1/19/21)
  - Maryland Gov. Hogan calls on schools to bring students back to classrooms by March under hybrid learning plan (1/21/21)
  - Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan focuses on vaccines, economic help, schools in ‘State of the State’ address (2/4/21)
  - With Maryland schools planning to reopen, teacher unions say classrooms aren’t safe enough yet from coronavirus (2/15/21)
  - Coronavirus in DC, Maryland, Virginia: What to Know on Feb. 16

Massachusetts
- State DOE: http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/
- Resources:
  - Fall Reopening Memo for Massachusetts Schools (6/8/20, 9:46am)
    - MA DESE Memorandum (6/5/20) - Guidance on Required Safety Supplies for Reopening Schools
  - Reopening Massachusetts Public Schools (9/3/20)
  - Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association
- Articles:
  - When it Comes to School COVID Testing; Finding Asymptomatic Cases Doesn’t Come Cheap (1/19/21)
  - Mass. Reports 541 new COVID-19 cases among students, 397 among school staff across the state (1/21/21)
  - New Remote Learning Rules Take Into Effect Tuesday in Mass. (1/19/21)
  - COVID-19 pool testing underway at Massachusetts schools (2/4/21)
  - COVID-19 Cases In Massachusetts Schools Drop 15-Percent Last Week (2/12/21)

Michigan
- State DOE: https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-37818_53456--,00.html
- Resources:
  - Michigan State University publishes guide for K-12 schools reopening amid pandemic (6/18/20 11:43am)
    - Re-Opening Schools During the COVID-19 Pandemic
  - Michigan High School Athletic Association
- Articles:
  - Multiple Michigan school superintendents retire as pandemic lingers (1/19/21)
Read Whitmer’s $5.6B Plan to fund coronavirus recovery for Michigan schools, economy (1/21/21)
Coronavirus in Michigan: Here’s what to know on January 21, 2021
New COVID-19 outbreaks in Michigan K-12 schools on the rise (2/1/21)
Upper Michigan schools seek to reconnect with disengaged students during COVID-19 pandemic (2/11/21)
87 infected in new coronavirus outbreaks at 20 schools, says Michigan’s Feb. 15 school outbreak report (2/15/21)

Minnesota
- State DOE: https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/health/covid19/
- Resources:
  - Minnesota schools allowed to reopen for summer (5/15/20 4:27pm)
    - Stay Safe: Minnesota Dept of Health: 2020-2021 Planning Guide for Schools
  - Target dates for return of Minnesota prep sports address uncertainty of managing COVID-19 (12/8/20)
  - Minnesota State High School League
- Articles:
  - MN officials: More than 10,000 COVID-19 vaccination appointments set up in new pilot program (1/18/21)
  - MN expands COVID testing, contact tracing amid wait for more vaccine (1/21/21)
  - MDH recommends proactive COVID-19 testing for youth headed back to school (1/21/21)
  - The daily coronavirus update: 16 cases of U.K. strain, two cases of Brazil strain reported in Minnesota (2/4/21)
  - COVID-19: Gov. Tim Walz reportedly set to make major Minnesota schools announcement (2/16/21)
  - Minnesota schools fast-track plans for permanent online learning options (2/16/21)

Mississippi
- State DOE: https://www.mdek12.org/COVID19
- Resources:
  - Considerations for Reopening Mississippi Schools, June-August 2020
  - Mississippi High School Activities Association
- Articles:
  - Mississippi announces changes to grading passing policies for 2020-2021 school year (1/21/21)
  - Schools across the metro area report COVID-19 case, quarantines among students (1/21/21)
  - Mississippi announces changes to grading, passing policies for 2020-21 school year (1/21/21)
  - 80 cases of COVID hit schools (2/3/21)
  - New COVID cases on a decline, no new school outbreaks reported (2/15/21)

Missouri
- State DOE: https://dese.mo.gov/communications/coronavirus-covid-19-information
- Resources:
  - Missouri School Boards Association Releases Guidelines to Consider When Reopening Schools (5/11/20 5:52pm)
  - DESE, DHSS release FAQs on school re-opening (8/17/20)
  - COVID-19 relief funds now available to reimburse substitute teachers in Missouri (10/24/20)
- Articles:
Senators discuss protecting Missouri businesses from COVID-19 liability (1/19/21)  
Some educators eager for coronavirus vaccine but Missouri timeline remains unknown (1/19/21)  
Editorial: Expedite school vaccines for COVID-19 (1/21/21)  
COVID lawsuit bill moving quickly in Missouri Senate (1/31/21)  
Missouri top teachers plead for higher coronavirus priority (2/16/21)

Montana  
- Resources:  
  - [The 3 Phases of Reopening Schools](http://opi.mt.gov/COVID-19-Information)  
  - [Montana High School Association](http://opi.mt.gov/COVID-19-Information)  
- Articles:  
  - Some Montana schools begin preparing to administer COVID vaccines (1/12/21)  
  - Montana coronavirus report (1/22/21)  
  - Montana schools pursue second cancellation of standardized testing (1/29/21)  
  - Montana adds 317 COVID-19 cases Tuesday (2/2/21)  
  - Montana coronavirus report (2/16/21)

Nebraska  
- State DOE: [https://www.education.ne.gov/publichealth/resources/](https://www.education.ne.gov/publichealth/resources/)  
- Resources:  
  - [State ed commissioner: flexibility and balance keys to working through the pandemic (6/5/20)](https://www.education.ne.gov/publichealth/resources/)  
  - [Launch Nebraska](https://www.education.ne.gov/publichealth/resources/)  
  - [NSAA Fall Sports Announcement (7/20/20)](https://www.education.ne.gov/publichealth/resources/)  
  - [Nebraska School Activities Association](https://www.education.ne.gov/publichealth/resources/)  
- Articles:  
  - Teachers in Central Nebraska receive COVID-19 vaccine (1/29/21)  
  - Math scores fell, failure rates rose as COVID disrupted Nebraska schools (2/7/21)  
  - “COVID teaching is so hard”: Educators share fears and frustrations about school in pandemic (2/16/21)

Nevada  
- State DOE: [http://www.doe.nv.gov](http://www.doe.nv.gov)  
- Resources:  
  - [Gov Sisolak signs directive allowing K-12 schools to open for summer (6/10/20 12:49am)](http://www.doe.nv.gov)  
  - [Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association](http://www.doe.nv.gov)  
- Articles:  
  - Gov Sisolak focuses on COVID-19, economic recovery during ‘State of the State’ address (1/20/21)  
  - NIAA: Fall sports season play is set to exist in some form (1/22/21)  
  - Nevada gives most school districts permission to bend COVID-19 rules (2/15/21)  
  - Dr. Roger Hicks: What’s the latest with COVID vaccines? (2/15/21)

New Hampshire  
- State DOE: [https://www.education.nh.gov/who-we-are/commissioner/covid-19](https://www.education.nh.gov/who-we-are/commissioner/covid-19)  
- Resources:  
  - New Hampshire Grades K-12 Back-to-School Guidance (July 2020)  
  - NHIAA moving ahead on fall sports, putting safety first (7/26/20)  
  - New Hampshire Interscholastic Activities Association
• Articles:
  o Schools worried about decreased state funding due to pandemic (1/22/21)
  o ‘You don’t need a vaccine’ to reopen schools, says Sununu (1/22/21)
  o Video: New Hampshire School Administrators Association Shares Video Highlighting Statewide COVID-19 Response (1/29/21)
  o Coronavirus Update (2/4/21)

New Jersey
• State DOE: https://www.nj.gov/education/topics/index.shtml
• Resources:
  o NJ Schools reopening in fall with students back in classrooms (6/26/20 5:43pm)
    ▪ The Road Back: Restart and Recovery Plan for Education
  o Did your kid fall behind during the pandemic? N.J. Schools to unveil new “Start Strong” exam to find out. (9/11/20)
  o New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletics Association
• Articles:
  o Hundreds of NJ Schools to Stay Remote, Many Delay Return to Buildings (1/22/21)
  o Gov. Murphy Issues New Coronavirus, Vaccines Updates (1/22/21)
  o Education advocacy groups urging governor to apply for federal testing waiver (2/4/21)
  o COVID infections in N.J. schools increase to 144 outbreaks, 686 cases. (2/16/21)
  o NJ’s home rule seems set to trump CDC guidance on school reopening (2/17/21)

New Mexico
• State DOE: https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/safe-healthy-schools/covid-19-coronavirus/
  o New Mexico Releases Plan for Reopening Public Schools (6/23/20 1:03pm)
  o NMAA announces revised 2020-21 sports calendar (7/15/20, 3:29PM)
  o New Mexico Activities Association
• Articles:
  o New Mexico vaccinating teachers, but with hiccups (1/15/21)
  o New Mexico school districts facing teacher, staff shortfall with hybrid-learning return (2/2/21)
  o 32 New Mexico public schools make it onto the COVID-19 watchlist (2/12/21)
  o Recap of New Mexico COVID-19 news (2/17/21)

New York
• State DOE: http://www.nysed.gov/coronavirus
• Resources:
  o NY State Education Department releases framework for school reopening plans (7/13/20)
    ▪ Recovering, Rebuilding, and Renewing the Spirit of New York’s Schools (7/13/20)
  o New York State releases revised COVID guidelines for schools (12/5/20)
  o New York State Public High School Athletic Association
• Articles:
  o NYC DOE claims more high school grads ‘college ready’ despite COVID-19 shutdown (1/16/21)
  o New York state gives OK for high-risk school sports: ‘Let’s go, baby!’ (1/22/21)
  o Western New York health departments discouraging travel around school spring break due to COVID-19 (2/4/21)
  o New York Was the 1st Big School District to reopen. Here’s What Happened. (2/14/21)
  o N.Y. schools can’t force students to get COVID tests for in-person learning classes: state officials (2/16/21)
North Carolina
- State Department of Public Instruction: https://www.dpi.nc.gov/news/covid-19-response-resources
- Resources:
  - N.C. releases 116-page guidebook on reopening public schools (6/11/20 6:06pm)
    - Lighting Our Way Forward: NC’s Guidebook for Reopening Public Schools
  - North Carolina High School Athletic Association
- Articles:
  - New study on COVID transmission in NC schools shows no reported child-to-adult transmission (1/13/21)
  - COVID vaccine live updates: Here’s what to know in North Carolina on Jan. 22
  - Gov. Cooper strongly urges all schools to provide in-person learning for students (2/2/21)
  - NC COVID Blog (2/15/21)
  - NC Republicans back summer school program for students lagging from virus (2/16/21)

North Dakota
- State Department of Public Instruction: https://bit.ly/3gcb3S2
- Resources:
  - North Dakota K-12 Smart Start Restart Guidance (May 2020)
  - NDHSAA Return to Competition Guidelines (7/24/20)
  - North Dakota High School Activities Association
- Articles:
  - Active COVID-19 cases; hospitalizations drop again in North Dakota; mask mandate ends Monday (1/17/21)
  - Drop in COVID-19 cases boosts teacher confidence; state reports 13 more deaths (1/21/21)

Ohio
- State DOE: http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Student-Supports/Coronavirus
- Resources:
  - Reset and Restart Education: Planning Guide for Ohio’s Schools and Districts
  - New OHSAA executive director Doug Ute: ‘Full steam ahead’ for winter sports (9/9/20)
  - Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association
- Articles:
  - Ohio COVID-19 Update: Phase 1B timeline; K-12 schools; cybersecurity, Ohio Department of Insurance (1/19/21)
  - Ohio school coronavirus cases decrease after record high a week ago (1/21/21)
  - Ohio school COVID-190 cases remain level, stay under 4,000 for third straight week (2/4/21)
  - Gov. Mike DeWine doubles down on plea to get Ohio students back in schools by March 1 (2/16/21)
  - Ohio’s vaccine portal won’t be ready for weeks; Columbus, other schools ‘breaking agreement’ with DeWine (2/16/21)

Oklahoma
- State DOE: https://sde.ok.gov/
- Resources:
  - COVID 19 FAQ for Oklahoma Public Schools
  - Oklahoma Department of Education Releases Guidance on School Reopening This Fall (6/3/20)
    - Return to Learn Oklahoma – a Framework for Reopening Schools
  - Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association
- Articles:
  - Stitt pushes for schools to reopen amid worsening pandemic (1/22/21)
  - COVID-19 continues to create challenges for Oklahoma schools (1/25/21)
Oklahoma Gob. Stitt opens COVID-19 vaccine rollout to teachers, staff, and people with comorbidities (2/11/21)

Oregon
- Resources:
  - Ready Schools, Safe Learners: Guidance for SY2020-21
  - OSAA Update: Memo to Schools (7/22/20)
  - Oregon Department of Education releases new COVID targets for schools to reopen in person (11/1/20)
  - Oregon Athletic Directors Association
- Articles:
  - New Oregon Education Guidance Includes 160 Health and Safety Measures (1/19/21)
  - Oregon public schools see enrollment fall amid COVID-19 impacts, distance learning (2/4/21)
  - Families face deadline to decide: stay home or go back to class (2/15/21)
  - Oregon is vaccinating teachers. It might not be enough to reopen schools. (2/17/21)

Pennsylvania
- Resources:
  1. Wolf Administration Outlines Preliminary Guidance for Phased Reopening of Schools (6/3/20)
  2. GOP Introduces COVID-19 Liability Shield for Schools (10/12/20)
  3. While COVID sidelines MD athletics, Your County, PA schools are playing ball (10/26/20)
  5. Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association
- Articles:
  - First case of new coronavirus variant detected in Pa. was elementary schools urged to bring students back to the classroom (1/7/21)
  - Wolf administration recommends sending elementary students back to classrooms (1/8/21)
  - All Pa Counties show substantial spread of COVID-19 for 6th week (1/19/21)
  - Pennsylvania COVID-19 Early Warning Monitoring Dashboard Update for Feb. 5-11 (2/16/21)

Rhode Island
- Resources:
  1. Reimagining RI Education: Fall Reopening Plan Framework, SY20-21 (5/22/20)
  2. RI opens comprehensive school testing program for COVID-19 (9/14/20)
  3. Rhode Island Interscholastic League
- Articles:
  1. RI Announces Rules Allowing Some Winter High School Sports to Compete (1/20/21)
  2. Widespread COVID-19 testing kicks off at schools across Rhode Island (1/21/21)
  3. RI health officials dive deeper into discussion on Phase 2 vaccine prioritization (1/22/21)
  5. Rhode Island Kept Its Schools Open. This Is What Happened. (2/10/21)

South Carolina
- Resources:
SC could know options for reopening K-12 schools soon as June, top official says (5/13/20 4:45pm)
  ▪ AcceleratedED Task Force: Draft Guidance and Recommendations for 2020-21 School Year
How the pandemic may turn 2020 high school football to a more digital season (9/21/20)
South Carolina High School League

South Dakota
  • State DOE: https://doe.sd.gov/coronavirus/
  • Resources:
    o SDHSAA approved non-binding summer guidance rules (5/28/20 1:00pm)
      ▪ South Dakota’s Back to Normal Plan
    o SD’s open enrollment rules waived for fall sports (8/26/20)
    o South Dakota High School Activities Association amends constitution (8/25/20)
    o South Dakota high school football championships: Guide to safety protocols, tickets, more (11/10/20)
  • Articles:
    o South Dakota Senate fine tunes law that lets education secretary waive school hours in emergencies (1/20/21)
    o COVID-19 vaccine doses surge past 100,000 as new infections in schools, state, continue to plummet (2/1/21)
    o Low COVID case count continues in SD schools (2/15/21)

Tennessee
  • Resources:
    o Tennessee State Board of Education FAQs
    o Tennessee Department of State – Division of Publications, Emergency Rules
    o State releases broad reopening guidance for schools; commissioner testifies in US Senate hearing (6/10/20 11:31pm)
      ▪ Reopening Guidance
    o TSSAA adopts COVID-19 regulations and fall sports contingency plans (7/22/20)
    o Tennessee schools receive rapid test kits for COVID-19 (9/30/20)
    o Gov. Lee Calls For Temporary Suspension of Accountability Measures for 2020-2021 (10/16/20)
  • Articles:
    o Proposed Tennessee bill could penalize schools for being virtual (1/21/21)
    o Historic Session to Help K-12 Tennessee Students Comes to a Close (1/22/21)
    o Even if they get the COVID-19 vaccine, most area teachers will still have to quarantine if they are exposed (2/2/21)
    o TN and Knox Co. to expand COVID-19 vaccine appointments to those 65 and older and teachers starting Monday (2/16/21)

Texas
  • Education Agency: https://bit.ly/3dFwBFJ
  • Resources:
    o TEA Issues Comprehensive Guidelines for a Safe Return to On-Campus Instruction for the 2020-21 School Year (7/7/20 3:01PM)
      ▪ SY 20-21 Public Health Planning Guidance (7/7/20)
Texas rolls out COVID-19 rapid testing to schools (10/14/20)
Texas High School Athletic Directors Association

Articles:
- State reports over 6,700 COVID-19 cases in Texas public schools for a week (1/22/21)
- State report shows impact of ‘COVID slide’ on schools (1/22/21)
- Texas school districts grapple with substitute teacher shortage amid the COVID-19 pandemic (2/2/21)
- “Frustrating”: Texas Teachers Not Prioritized for COVID-19 Vaccine (2/9/21)
- State leaders push back on in-person STAAR exam, Central Texas schools prepare for test with COVID-19 precautions (2/10/21)

Utah
State Board of Education: https://schools.utah.gov/coronavirus

Resources:
- Planning Requirements and Recommendations for K-12 School Reopening (6/26/20)
- UHSAA votes to approve fall sports and activities for 2020 (7/9/20)
- Utah High School Activities Association

Articles:
- Utah legislators want to loosen requirements for teen learner’s permits due to COVID-19 impact (1/21/21)
- Jan 22 data: Utah counts 24 more lives lost to COVID-19
- Thousands of Utah kids have changed schools during COVID-19 while ‘school choice’ left others out (2/1/21)
- Audit says Utah schools should drop COVID-19 ‘soft closures’ policy (2/4/21)

Vermont
State Agency of Education: https://education.vermont.gov/covid19

Resources:
- State issues guidelines for reopening schools (6/18/20)
  - A Strong and Healthy Start: Safety and Health Guidance for Reopening Schools, Fall 2020
- Vermont officials release updated guidelines for club, college sports (10/27/20)
- Vermont State Athletic Directors Association

Articles:
- Vermont teachers petition for COVID-19 vaccine (1/20/21)
- The Checkup for Jan., 20
- Vermont Officials report 133 New COVID Cases (1/29/21)
- New CDC guidelines for schools are out. What does that mean for Vermont? (2/12/21)

Virginia

Resources:
- VA releases plan for phased reopening of schools (6/10/20, 6:52pm)
  - Return to School Plan
  - Interim Guidance to K-12 School Reopening
- VHSL adopts condensed athletic schedule for 2020-21 school year (7/27/20, 7:56AM)
- Virginia launches dashboard with number of coronavirus cases in schools by name (10/24/20)
- Virginia Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association

Articles:
- Gov. Northam to announce support for extending Virginia’s school year into summer (2/4/21)
- Coronavirus in DC, Maryland, Virginia: What to Know on Feb. 16
- News to Know for Feb. 16
- Virginia schools may soon be required to have in-person option (2/16/21)
Washington

- Department of Public Instruction: https://bit.ly/3897PfB
- Resources:
  - WIAA’s return-to-play guidance for 2020-21 high school sports approved by Washington state officials (7/22/20)
  - Washington Interscholastic Activities Association
- Articles:
  - How high school leagues across Washington are planning COVID-condensed 2021 season schedules (1/19/21)
  - SB 5037, a bill to allow public schools to safely open under internationally-recognized health guidelines (1/21/21)
  - Washington Teachers, School Staff Could Be Eligible for COVID-19 Vaccine earlier Than Expected (1/22/21)
  - A handful of Washington Schools are rapid testing staff and students for COVID-19. Is it working? (2/8/21)
  - Washington sees ‘fairly low’ levels of COVID-19 transmission in K-12 schools, report finds (2/16/21)

West Virginia

- State DOE: https://wvde.us/covid19/
- Resources:
  - West Virginia School Re-entry & Recovery Guidance
  - COVID-19 Outbreaks in State Public Schools
  - West Virginia Secondary School Activities Association
- Articles:
  - COVID-19 vaccine distribution among school personnel in W.Va. (1/22/21)
  - West Virginia school systems announce new COVID-19 cases from last week, long weekend (1/19/21)
  - COVID-19 Update: Gov. Justice announces West Virginia to receive increase in weekly allocation of vaccine doses (2/3/21)
  - COVID-19 Consequences Are Still Felt in West Virginia Education (2/4/21)
  - At least 58 North Central West Virginia students, teachers, test positive for COVID-19 this week (2/12/21)

Wisconsin

- Department of Public Instruction: https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/2019-novel-coronavirus
- Resources:
  - Wisconsin officials release guidance on reopening schools (6/22/20)
  - Wisconsin Releases Guidelines for Reopening K-12 Schools (8/19/20)
  - Western Wisconsin high schools giving fall sports a shot (8/25/20)
  - Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association
- Articles:
  - Teachers emphasized in COVID-19 vaccine plan sent to state (1/22/21)
  - Local school districts won’t mandate COVID-19 vaccine (2/3/21)
  - Wisconsin Lawmakers Approve Plan To Give In-Person Schools More Federal Coronavirus Aid (2/10/21)
  - Experts: Schools experience less COVID because they enforce masks, other rules (2/16/21)

Wyoming

- State DOE: https://edu.wyoming.gov/educators/covid-19-resources/ (school district closure list)
- Resources:
State releases initial guidance for fall reopening of K-12 schools (7/1/20)
- High school fall sports season encounters no problems in opening week (8/20/20)
- New health orders mean less space for spectators (12/8/20)
- Wyoming High School Activities Association

Articles:
- Wyoming schools, lawmakers address unprecedented funding crisis (1/30/21)
- Wyoming’s COVID Death Toll Rises by 23 (2/9/21)
- Wyoming extends mask order, will loosen restrictions on restaurants, gatherings (2/11/21)

Department of Defense Education Activity Schools
- Defense Officials Brief on Opening DODEA Schools During COVID-19 (8/13/20)
- Almost all DODEA students back in classrooms in Italy (1/20/21)
- DODEA shuts down Okinawa high school after three people test positive for coronavirus (1/19/21)
- DODEA delays return to in-class learning at all schools in Germany except one (1/28/21)
- US Forces Korea to reduce its coronavirus-risk level, allow students to return to schools (2/10/21)
- Base barbers to reopen, but DODEA hedges on return to classrooms as coronavirus ebbs in Germany (2/11/21)

Other Agencies and Organizations

- MIC3 Department of Defense Memorandums and Information webpage
- Website: Latest DOD Guidance (10/22/20)
- Pentagon Reservation Plan for Resilience and Aligning with National Guidelines for Opening Up America Again (5/26/20)
- Fact Sheet – Travel Restrictions (5/26/20)
- Transition to Conditions-based Phased Approach to Coronavirus Disease 2019 Personnel Movement and Travel Restrictions (5/22/20)
- Pentagon Gives Local Commanders Roadmap for Easing On-Base Coronavirus Restrictions (5/20/20 5:53pm)
- The US Department of Defense has extended the Stop Movement Order to June 30, although the Pentagon will allow more than 30,000 families to move during the Stop Order (5/6/20) Article
- Military Moving Season Most Likely Extended to the End of the Year
- SecDef update to Travel Restrictions (Stop Movement extended to June 30) (4/20/20)
  - Memorandum and FAQ

Bluestar Families - https://bluestarfam.org/covid-19/

Military One Source - https://www.militaryonesource.mil/coronavirus


Military Child Education Coalition - https://www.militarychild.org/covid19

Military One-Source - Coronavirus Updates for our Military Community