

State Department of Education/Public Instruction COVID-19 Information/Guidance on School Closures and Reopening

Under the CDC Updated Guidance on Reopening Schools, state leaders and local officials continue to reassess the impact of COVID-19 while trying to maintain community safety and health. In most states, the number of cases has decreased, and vaccination distribution has steadily increased. Several states have signed mandates for schools to reopen by a specific date. While many districts and schools remain in remote learning, many plan for students to return to school in March or after spring break. In addition, a number of districts reported they have returned to in-person or hybrid learning.

In late February, the U.S. Department of Education released guidance to states emphasizing the importance of flexibility in administering assessments this year as a result of the pandemic and supporting the use of assessment data as a source of information for parents and educators to target resources and support, rather than for accountability purposes this year. A different approach is being considered in Colorado which has suspended statewide testing assessments, and California school officials are pushing for a standardized testing waiver.

Educators and families continue to express concern regarding: the impact of the pandemic and remote learning environment on students; academic regression; and the overall mental health and well-being of students – with several states indicating interest in examining the short and long-term effects of the pandemic on children.

States continue to focus on vaccine distribution. President Biden recently announced his goal to get educators the vaccine this month. Though vaccine supply has been slow, the administration is working on ramping up supply to meet the demand. Several states have expanded vaccine eligibility to all residents 16 years old and higher, and while others have prioritized educators and school personnel. Other legislative COVID related issues include adoption or consideration of vaccination mandates and COVID-liability waivers. In addition, a new bill in Kentucky could give high school seniors an athletic do-over, and a new Michigan bill would limit impact of test scores amid the pandemic.

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.

Updated info

Federal and Education Organizations

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

See How the Vaccine Rollout is Going in Your State (3/16/21)

Biden Administration

- Executive Order: On Protecting the Federal Work force and Requiring Mask-Wearing (1/20/21)
- Biden Details Plan for Reopening Schools (1/21/21)
- Lifelong Educator, Miguel Cardona, Confirmed As Education Secretary (3/1/21)
- Biden Administration Steps Up Push for Reopening (3/3/21)
- Biden Administration to Expand COVID-19 Vaccine Program to 950 Community Health Centers (3/11/21)

U.S. Department of Education COVID-19 Information & Resources https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus



- Guidance to States on Assessing Student Learning During the Pandemic (2/22/21)
- What Congressional COVID Funding Means for K-12 Schools (Updated 3/11/21)

Pacific Disaster Center - COVID-19 Global Pandemic Dashboard *Worldwide data by country also posted

• US Status (12/17/20) - 48 states and territories have some type of mandated mask requirement.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

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.

- COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Operational Guidance, v2.0 (10/29/20)
- COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdictions Operations Annex (January 2020)
- 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)
- Operating Schools During COVID-19: CDC Considerations (2/11/21)
- Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools Through Phased Mitigation (2/26/21)

Education Commission of the States

- <u>Key Issues: COVID (Seven Part Series)</u> 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 (3/31/20)
- 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 (3/16/21)

State Department of Education Webpages and Information

Alabama

- State DOE: https://www.alsde.edu/covid-19
- Resources:
 - o Roadmap for Reopening Schools
 - o AHSAA Releases Best Practices Document and Fall Sports Rule Modifications (7/23/20)
 - o Alabama Dept. of Health updates coronavirus toolkit for schools (10/13/20)
 - o Alabama Public Health Department Schools K-12 and Report Card
 - Alabama School COVID-19 Dashboard (1/20/21)
 - Alabama High School Athletics Association
- Articles



- Alabama K-12 school COVID-19 cases drop in tandem with local COVID-19 numbers (3/2/21)
- o COVID-19 not stopping sports in Alabama (3/1/21)
- o Alabama school boards can still require masks after COVID order ends (3/4/21)
- Alabama Using Standardized Testing to Assess Coronavirus Learning Gap (3/15/21)
- North Alabama school districts share lessons learned a year after pandemic (3/16/21)

Alaska

- State DOE: 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
 - Alabama School Dashboard
- Articles:
 - Alaska school district cases prompt sports mask restrictions (2/14/21)
 - o Avoiding Another COVID-19 Wave: How Schools Are Handling Spring Break Travel (3/12/21)
 - Covid-19: Alaska Becomes First State to Open Vaccine Access to Everyone 16 and Older (3/16/21)

Arizona

- State DOE: https://www.azed.gov/communications/2020/03/10/guidance-to-schools-on-covid-19/
- Resources:
 - o Department of Education Releases Guidance for Reopening Arizona schools (6/1/20 11:20am)
 - Roadmap for Reopening Schools
 - o COVID-19 School Benchmarks (11/19/20)
 - o Education, health leaders launch 'Healthy Kids, Open Schools' campaign amid COVID-19 surge (11/9/20)
 - Statewide Tracker: School Learning Models (12/1/20)
 - o Arizona Interscholastic Association
- Articles:
 - Arizona suspends school letter grades, Gov. Ducey orders study of learning loss (2/15/21)
 - Gov. Dulcey orders Arizona schools o offer in-person learning by March 15 (3/3/21)
 - o Arizona high school sports teams hit restart a year after being cut off by COVID-19 (3/14/21)
 - One year after first closing to slow spread of COVID-19, Arizona schools reopen starting this week (3/15/21)
 - o Coronavirus in Arizona on March 15

Arkansas

- State DOE: http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/divisions/communications/covid-19-information
- Resources:
 - o Arkansas Back-to-School Playbook
 - State releases 'Arkansas Ready to Learn, Healthy School' Guide (8/13/20)
 - Arkansas Activities Association
 - Arkansas Schools Plan for 2021 Graduation with COVID-19 Guidelines in Mind (1/25/21)
- Articles:
 - o New COVID-19 guidelines lead Arkansas schools to plan for future (2/26/21)
 - o Ex-Arkansas surgeon general explains ACHI's role in providing COVID-19 stats (copy) (3/4/21)
 - Arkansas school district reflects on 'roller coaster' year amid COVID-19 pandemic (3/10/21)
 - Arkansas public schools reacted well to COVID-19 crisis (3/16/21)

California

- State DOE: https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/coronavirus.asp
- Resources:
 - o COVID-19 Industry Guidance: Schools and School-Based Programs
 - Stronger Together: A guidebook for Safe Reopening of California's Public Schools



- Quick Guide: What California's color-coded county tracking system means for schools (8/31/20)
- BluePrint for a Safer Economy (8/28/20)
- California's Safe Schools For All Hub
 - California Interscholastic Federation
- Articles:
 - LA County hits threshold to let elementary schools reopen (2/16/21)
 - High School Sports Allowed to Resume As COVID-19 Case Rates Decline in California (4/27/21)
 - Q&A on school reopenings (3/1/21)
 - California offers COVID-19 rapid tests to reopening schools (3/21/21)
 - COVID: Gov. Newsom touts school reopening, but fewer hours are spent in class (3/16/21)

Colorado

- State DOE: https://www.cde.state.co.us/safeschools
- Resources:
 - o 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:
 - COVID-19 hospitalizations, cases continue dropping statewide but variants lurk around Colorado (2/16/21)
 - o 1 year of COVID: Colorado school enrollment fell 1% (3/3/21)
 - o Colorado's COVID-19 outbreaks on decline but schools, colleges still seeing more (3/4/21)
 - COVID In Colorado: Suspension Of Statewide Student Assessments Signed Into Law (3/16/21)
 - o Colorado's COVID-19 cases have reached 'high plateau,' state health officials say (3/16/21)
 - Class time, high-fives and hugs: What Colorado students lost to the pandemic-disrupted school year (3/16/21)

Connecticut

- State DOE: https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/COVID19/COVID-19-Resources-for-Families-and-Educators
 - School District Reopening Plans
- 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
 - o Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference
- Articles:
 - o COVID-19 crisis brings new urgency to debate over eliminating religious vaccination exemption for Connecticut schoolchildren (2/16/21)
 - Connecticut schools begin planning vaccine clinics (2/25/21)
 - o Connecticut expected to ease some virus-related restrictions (3/4/21)
 - CT COVID-19 Updates: Positivity rate rises to 4.96%, hospitalizations down (3/15/21)
 - Virtual learning likely to continue in Connecticut next school year even as officials push for return to in-person classes (3/16/21)



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)
 - o In-Person Contagious School Cases Dashboard (1/5/21)
 - Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association
 - <u>DIAA delays decision on football realignment, refines COVID return-to-play guidelines</u> (2/4/21)
- Articles:
 - o One-dose vaccine arrives, state scheduling events for seniors and educators (3/1/21)
 - Del. coronavirus update: State to open vaccine to everyone over age 50 (3/16/21)
 - Could COVID-19 testing in schools be the answer to getting more students in the classroom?
 (3/16/21)

District of Columbia

- Public Schools: https://dcps.dc.gov/coronavirus
- Resources:
 - o <u>School Year Term 1 will Begin Virtually (7/30/20)</u> 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:
 - Coronavirus in DC, Maryland, Virginia: What to Know on Mar. 3
 - o DC teachers' union announces COVID-19 'situation room' (3/3/21)
 - o High school sports in DC could resume as early as March 15 (3/4/21)
 - D.C. Expands Coronavirus Vaccine Eligibility, Rolls Back Restrictions On Businesses And Gatherings (3/15/21)
 - Survey: Many DC teachers have contemplated leaving profession during the pandemic (3/15/21)

Florida

- State DOE: http://www.fldoe.org/em-response/
- Resources:
 - Reopening Florida's Schools and the CARES Act (6/11/20)
 - Safe. Smart. Step-by-Step. Plan
 - Florida High School Athletic Association
- Articles:
 - Florida Governor Ron DeSantis Addresses COVID-19, Jobs, Schools and Economy During State of the State (3/2/21)
 - Update: All Florida teachers, childcare workers can now get COVID-19 vaccine at CVS, Walmart pharmacies (3/3/21)
 - More than 80,000 COVID cases related to FL schools since fall; weekly cases rise again (3/8/21)
 - Vaccine events focus on school employees as Florida reports 5,244 new COVID-19 cases (3/13/21)

Georgia

- State DOE: https://www.georgiainsights.com/coronavirus.html
- Resources:
 - o Georgia Department of Education Releases Reopening Guidelines for Schools (6/1/20)
 - o Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools



- o 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:

- Georgia Lawmakers to Consider Telehealth Expansion in Schools (2/16/21)
- o Officials meeting to plan COVID-19 vaccination for Georgia teachers (3/4/21)
- o COVID-19 pandemic changes the role of school nurses in Georgia (3/16/21)
- o High school seniors ready to walk across the stage despite pandemic obstacles (3/16/21)

Hawaii

- State DOE: https://bit.ly/3eExX4i
- Resources:
 - o Guidance for Reopening Schools
 - o Return to Learn (7/2/20)
 - Hawaii Health Department updates guidance for schools reopening (10/20/20)
 - o Ready to Learn BOE Metrics reporting
 - Hawaii High School Activities Association
- Articles:
 - Hawaii's acting state epidemiologist calls for reopening public schools (2/28/21)
 - Hawaii Aims To Reopen Elementary Schools After Spring Break (3/3/21)
 - o COVID-19 cases declining among Hawaii public school students and staff (2/21/21)
 - Hawaii schools, unions agree to boost in-person learning (3/16/21)
 - Elementary schools set goal for in-person learning, but high schools could be distant until fall (3/15/21)

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
 - ldaho High School Activities Association releases fall sports guidance (7/21/20, 9:41 AM)
 - Idaho High School Activities Association
- Articles:
 - School districts face staff shortages with return to full-time (2/16/21)
 - o In Idaho, vaccinating kids against COVID-19 is crucial part of herd immunity (2/27/21)
 - o Some students learn responsibility in pandemic-altered year (3/4/21)
 - Pandemic pushes school nurses to phone duty (3/15/21)
 - High-risk Idaho residents 16 and older can get COVID-19 vaccines by April 12 (3/16/21)

Illinois

- State Board of Education: https://www.isbe.net/coronavirus
- · Resources:
 - o Starting the 2020-21 School Year (June 23, 2020) Part 3 Transition and Joint Guidance
 - Illinois High School Association
 - Illinois Federation of Teachers (IFT): COVID-19 Tracking Website
- Articles:
 - o <u>Illinois Superintendents Oppose Standardized Testing During COVID-19 Pandemic (3/3/21)</u>
 - o <u>Illinois schools spent big on substitutes and 'paraprofessionals' in the absence of teachers last</u> year (3/3/21)
 - Illinois schools consider new distancing guidelines that would seat students closer together (3/16/21)



o Coronavirus in Illinois updates (3/16/21)

Indiana

- State DOE: https://www.doe.in.gov/safety/health/covid-19-resources-indiana-schools
- Resources:
 - o Indiana's Considerations for Learning and Safe Schools In-Class Guidance
 - Statewide COVID-19 map offers guidance for Indiana schools (9/5/20)
 - o Indiana High School Athletic Association
- Articles:
 - Indiana changing student COVID-19 close contact guarantine guidelines (2/3/21)
 - More than 1,100 additional COVID-19 cases reported Indiana schools, total nears 40,000 (2/15/21)
 - o Indiana lawmakers send COVID-19 lawsuit shield to governor (2/15/21)
 - New COVID-19 cases in schools holds steady with 600 additional cases reported this week (3/1/21)
 - Teachers in Indiana of any age can be vaccinated through the federal pharmacy program (3/3/21)

Iowa

- State DOE: https://educateiowa.gov/article/2020/04/03/covid-19-guidance-and-information
- Resources:
 - Reopening Guidance for Schools (6/25/20)
 - o <u>lowa High School Athletic Association announces revised 2020 football schedule due to COVID-19 (7/24/20, 1:14 PM)</u>
 - o <u>Iowa Dept. Of Education: COVID-19 Guidance and Information (10/7/20)</u>
 - o Iowa High School Athletic Association
- Articles:
 - As schools are forced to open, lowa removes all COVID-19 regulations (2/8/21)
 - o Education Through the Pandemic (2/16/21)
 - A Superintendent May Lose His Job Over COVID-19 Response (3/4/21)

Kansas

- State DOE: https://www.ksde.org/Home/Quick-Links/News-Room/kansas-school-buildings-to-close-for-remainder-of-school-year-because-of-covid-19-1
- 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 to focus on COVID-19 shots for teachers, school staff (2/18/21)
 - Kansas Republicans target COVID-19 restrictions from state, counties, and schools (2/26/21)
 - Kansas schools can fight COVID-19 with fresh air, but it's unclear how many even track ventilation (3/14/21)
 - Kansas lawmakers reject requiring in-person classes March 26 (3/16/21)

Kentucky

- State DOE: https://education.ky.gov/districts/SHS/Pages/2019-Novel-Coronavirus.aspx
- 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)
 - o 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

- Beshear recommends reopening Kentucky classrooms once staff get COVID-19 vaccines (2/24/21)
- Kentucky Senate backs bill requiring schools to reopen (3/4/21)
- o New bill Kentucky could give high school seniors an athletic do-over (3/3/21)
- Department of Education issues COVID-19 guidance on spring activities in Kentucky school districts (3/8/21)
- o 'The way I imagined.' In-person graduations, proms making comeback in KY schools (3/12/21)

Louisiana

- State DOE: https://www.louisianabelieves.com/resources/covid-19
- Resources:
 - o Reopening LA Schools, Adjusting 2020-21 Schedule Focus of 'Strong Start' Guidance (5/8/20 4:04pm)
 - Strong Start Planning Guide (6/25/20)
 - o 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

- Louisiana expands COVID-19 vaccine to teachers, school staff, some 55+ (2/18/21)
- Once year into COVID-19, Louisiana schools have 'more mobile devices than kids' (2/28/21)
- With in-school coronavirus vaccinations, these Louisiana teachers hope for return to normal (3/4/21)
- Louisiana school board asks for larger K-12 boost (3/10/21)

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)
 - o 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

- Following Biden's lead, Mills allows 50,000 Maine educators to receive COVID-19 vaccine (3/3/21)
- Maine lawmaker hopes parents will back bill giving them authority over holding students back (3/4/21)
- Updated COVID-19 guidelines open the door for spring high school sports championships in Maine (3/12/21)
- Maine DOE Update (3/12/21)



Maryland

- State DOE: http://marylandpublicschools.org/Pages/default.aspx
- Resources:
 - o 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)
 - o Maryland schools get green light for earlier start to winter sports (10/26/20)
 - o Five things to know about Maryland's coronavirus dashboard (11/18/20)
 - Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association
- Articles:
 - o COVID in Maryland: School Reopening Plans for Every District (3/2/21)
 - Coronavirus in DC, Maryland, Virginia: What to Know on Mar. 3
 - Maryland's Republican Governor issues order dropping majority of state's COVID-19 restrictions (3/15/21)

Massachusetts

- State DOE: http://www.doe.mass.edu/covid19/
- Resources:
 - o 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
 - o Reopening Massachusetts Public Schools (9/3/20)
 - Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association
- Articles:
 - Pool coronavirus testing is launching in more than 900 Massachusetts schools. Here's how it works (2/25/21)
 - Massachusetts Teachers, School Staff Can Sign Up For COVID Vaccinations Starting March 11
 (3/3/21)
 - o Mass. schools report 523 new COVID-19 cases among students, staff (3/12/21)
 - Pooled COVID testing in Massachusetts schools showing low prevalence of virus among students, staff (3/17/21)

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
 - o Michigan High School Athletic Association
- Articles:
 - Whitmer: Nearly all Michigan schools to open amid COVID. Ann Arbor, too. (2/24/21)
 - o 146 infected in new coronavirus outbreaks at 29 schools says Michigan's March 1 school outbreak report (3/1/21)
 - o New MI bills would limit impact of test score amid COVID-19 (3/3/21)
 - Michigan's March 15 school outbreak report

Minnesota

- State DOE: https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/health/covid19/
- Resources:
 - o Minnesota schools allowed to reopen for summer (5/15/20 4:27pm)
 - Stay Safe: Minnesota Dept of Health: 2020-2021 Planning Guide for Schools
 - o <u>Target dates for return of Minnesota prep sports address uncertainty of managing COVID-19</u> (12/8/20)
 - Minnesota State High School League



Articles:

- Minnesota schools fast-track plans for permanent online learning options (2/16/21)
- Minnesota health officials ask students and families to take COVID-19 tests every two weeks (2/25/21)
- West central Minnesota, much of state continue to have 14-day COVID-19 case rates in teens or lower (3/4/21)
- MDH school data shows COVID-19 cases rising in a third of Minnesota counties (3/15/21)

Mississippi

- State DOE: https://www.mdek12.org/COVID19
- Resources:
 - Considerations for Reopening Mississippi Schools, June-August 2020
 - o Mississippi High School Activities Association
 - Mississippi announces changes to grading passing policies for 2020-2021 school year (1/21/21)

Articles:

- o Mississippi teachers, first responders eligible for COVID-19 vaccines on March 1 (2/23/21)
- o Governor rolls back COVID-19 restrictions in Mississippi (3/2/21)
- o <u>'It's a blessing:" MHSAA state basketball tournament championships capacity now set at 50%</u> (3/2/21)
- o COVID-19 and education: damages done and future forecast (3/11/21)
- o COVID-19 vaccinations now available to all Mississippians (3/16/21)

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)
 - https://ams.embr.mobi/Documents/DocumentAttachment.aspx?C=ZfON&DID=GJGDM
 - o DESE, DHSS release FAQs on school re-opening (8/17/20)
 - o COVID-19 relief funds now available to reimburse substitute teachers in Missouri (10/24/20)
 - Senators discuss protecting Missouri businesses from COVID-19 liability (1/19/21)
 - o <u>Missouri State High School Activities Association</u>

Articles:

- o Missouri ready to move to next COVID-19 vaccination phase; teachers will be eligible for vaccine (2/25/21)
- o <u>Missouri COVID-19 Update: Missouri lawmakers back new checks on local health officials</u> (3/3/21)
- o Governor Kelly holds press conference on COVID-19 updates, addresses other issues (3/3/21)
- Missouri high school athletics look forward after one year of COVID (3/14/21)
- o Missouri teachers are eligible for COVID-19 vaccine. But how many will take it? (3/12/21)

Montana

- State DOE: http://opi.mt.gov/COVID-19-Information
- Resources:
 - o School Districts Decision on COVID-19 Closures (4/14/20)
 - The 3 Phases of Reopening Schools
 - o Guide to the 2020 Class A football season (8/25/20)
 - o Montana High School Association
 - o Montana schools pursue second cancellation of standardized testing (1/29/21)
- Articles:
 - Montana House Passes Legislation to Protect Schools, Public Entities from Frivolous COVID-19 Lawsuits (3/1/21)
 - Montana coronavirus report (3/4/21)
 - Montana educators now qualify for COVID-19 vaccine (3/5/21)



Five groups urge universal mask usage at all Montana schools (3/15/21)

Nebraska

- State DOE: https://www.education.ne.gov/publichealth/resources/
- Resources:
 - o State ed commissioner: flexibility and balance keys to working through the pandemic (6/5/20)
 - Launch Nebraska
 - NSAA Fall Sports Announcement (7/20/20)
 - Nebraska School Activities Association
- Articles:
 - o "This is a good day for us': Omaha-area teachers to get COVID vaccines on Saturday (3/3/21)
 - Monday, March 15 Update

Nevada

- State DOE: http://www.doe.nv.gov
- Resources:
 - o Gov Sisolak signs directive allowing K-12 schools to open for summer (6/10/20 12:49am)
 - Nevada's Path Forward: A Framework for a Safe, Efficient, and Equitable Return to School Buildings (6/9/20)
 - Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association
 - NIAA: Fall sports season play is set to exist in some form (1/22/21)
- Articles:
 - o Nevada gives most school districts permission to bend COVID-19 rules (2/15/21)
 - o Dr. Roger Hicks: What's the latest with COVID vaccines? (2/15/21)
 - Nevada Department of Education reflects on school successes during crisis year (3/16/21)
 - Nevada discourages any '100%' open plans as counties near May 1 date (3/16/21)

New Hampshire

- State DOE: 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
 - Video: New Hampshire School Administrators Association Shares Video Highlighting Statewide COVID-19 Response (1/29/21)
- Articles:
 - Nevada coronavirus task force: All teachers have either received a shot or have been offered vaccinations (3/2/21)
 - New bill aims to address Nevada students' learning loss during the pandemic (3/4/21)
 - With Rollout of Teacher Vaccinations, N.H. Schools Ponder Full Reopening (3/12/21)
 - Sununu Changes Travel Guidance, Allows 100% Capacity at NH Retail Stores (3/17/21)

New Jersey

- State DOE: https://www.ni.gov/education/topics/index.shtml
- Resources:
 - 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 <u>Did your kid fall behind during the pandemic? N.J. Schools to unveil new "Start Strong" exam to find out. (9/11/20)</u>
 - New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletics Association
- Articles:
 - o NJ's home rule seems set to trump CDC guidance on school reopening (2/17/21)
 - o Murphy opens vaccines to teachers, says schools should be 'back in business' by fall (3/1/21)
 - Black families in NJ make 'heartbreaking' choice to keep kids in remote learning (3/3/21)



- N.J. reports 42 COVID deaths, 2,605 positive tests as state marks 1 year since first case (3/4/21)
- 2,800 new cases, 15 COVID deaths announced as N.J. prepares to expand indoor dining (3/14/21)
- Murphy signs law allowing budget flexibility for school districts amid COVID-19 pandemic (3/16/21)

New Mexico

- State DOE: https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/safe-healthy-schools/covid-19-coronavirus/
 - New Mexico Releases Plan for Reopening Public Schools (6/23/20 1:03pm)
 - NMAA announces revised 2020-21 sports calendar (7/15/20, 3:29PM)
 - New Mexico Activities Association

Articles:

- o Recap of New Mexico COVID-19 news (2/17/21)
- o New Mexico Schools: COVID-19 testing up, Positivity Down (2/25/21)
- o NMPED: 24 schools on COVID-19 watchlist (2/27/21)
- o New Mexico teachers' union chief praises push to vaccinate educators (3/3/21)
- o New Mexico says schools can fully reopen April 5 (3/8/21)
- o NMPED: 16 New Mexico Schools On COVID-19 Watchlist (3/15/21)

New York

- State DOE: http://www.nysed.gov/coronavirus
- Resources:
 - 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)
 - Governor Cuomo Launches "The COVID-29 Report Card," An Online Dashboard Tracking Real- <u>Time COVID-19 Infections and Testing Operations of Every New York School and School</u> <u>District (9/8/20)</u>
 - o New York State releases revised COVID guidelines for schools (12/5/20)
 - o New York State Public High School Athletic Association
- Articles:
 - N.Y. schools can't force students to get COVID tests for in-person learning classes: state officials (2/16/21)
 - State Teachers' Union Seeking More School COVID Testing (3/4/21)
 - Latest coronavirus updates in New York (3/16/21)
 - New York Teachers Union Calls for COVID Testing As Schools Reopen (3/16/21)

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
 - Strong Schools NC: Public Health Toolkit (K-12) (Updated 3/3/21)
 - North Carolina High School Athletic Association
- Articles:
 - o Coronavirus: One year later in North Carolina (3/3/21)
 - o COVID vaccine live updates: Here's what to know in NC on March 4
 - o NC school leaders to vote on new COVID-19 safety measures (3/4/21)
 - One death is too many: Cumberland County officials in Southeastern NC reflect on year of COVID-19 (3/15/21)
 - COVID-19 vaccine now available to people with high risk medical conditions (3/17/21)



North Dakota

- State Department of Public Instruction: https://bit.ly/3gcb3S2
- Resources:
 - o North Dakota K-12 Smart Start Restart Guidance (May 2020)
 - o NDHSAA Return to Competition Guidelines (7/24/20)
 - North Dakota High School Activities Association
- Articles:
 - North Dakota coronavirus news, March 5: Students, families asked to take survey
 - North Dakota coronavirus news, March 14

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:
 - o Coronavirus in Ohio Thursday update (3/4/21)
 - o COVID-19 in Ohio: State Lowers Age Limit For Vaccine to 16 Years And Older (3/16/21)
 - o COVID-19 cases in Ohio schools nearly double in wake of forced reopenings (3/17/21)

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)
 - i. Return to Learn Oklahoma a Framework for Reopening Schools
 - Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association
- Articles:
 - o Standardized testing to resume in Oklahoma schools (3/4/21)
 - Carlson: Oklahoma high school basketball teams rekindle state dreams squashed by COVID (3/9/21)
 - o Oklahoma governor says 'every school' in state is open as teacher vaccines have been prioritized (3/16/21)

Oregon

- State DOE: https://www.oregon.gov/ode/students-and-family/healthsafety/Pages/COVID19.aspx
- Resources:
 - o 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)
 - New Oregon Education Guidance Includes 160 Health and Safety Measures (1/19/21)
 - Oregon Athletic Directors Association
- Articles:
 - o Oregon is vaccinating teachers. It might not be enough to reopen schools. (2/17/21)
 - Gov. Brown: Most Oregon elementary students will return to classes by the end of April (2/18/21)
 - High school football kicks off in Oregon after months-long COVID-delay (3/5/21)
 - Oregon releases new guidance ahead of return to classrooms (3/16/21)



Pennsylvania

- State DOE: https://bit.ly/3dG9fzb
- Resources:
 - 1. Wolf Administration Outlines Preliminary Guidance for Phased Reopening of Schools (6/3/20)
 - Preliminary Guidance
 - 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)
 - 4. Pennsylvania COVID-19 Early Warning Monitoring Dashboard Update for Oct.16-Oct. 22 (10/26/20)
 - 5. Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association
- Articles:
 - Gov. Wolf and COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force Announce Plan to Vaccinate Teachers, Other School Staff (3/3/21)
 - Mental health, testing mandates top concerns of PA educators as COVID-19 continues (3/3/21)
 - What we lost: Pa. school students are anxious, depressed and falling h=behind during COVID-19 (3/15/21)
 - Pa. Loosens restrictions on bars, restaurants, and will allow more fans into stadiums; more Philly schools to resume in-person classes (3/15/21)

Rhode Island

- State DOE: https://www.ride.ri.gov/InsideRIDE/AdditionalInformation/Covid19.aspx
- Resources:
 - 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
 - RI Announces Rules Allowing Some Winter High School Sports to Compete (1/20/21)
- Articles:
 - 1. McKee makes COVID the focus of a busy first day in office (3/3/21)
 - McKee Announces Plan to Get COVID-19 Vaccinations to All RI Teachers, School Staff by End of Month (3/9/21)
 - 3. Local educators breathe a sigh of relief as teachers start receiving COVID vaccinations (3/12/21)

South Carolina

- State DOE: https://ed.sc.gov/newsroom/covid-19-coronavirus-and-south-carolina-schools/
- 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
- Articles:
 - o COVID on the rise in South Carolina schools (3/2/21)
 - South Carolina teachers react to qualifying for vaccine (3/2/21)
 - DHEC says 14,499 cumulative COVID cases in SC schools. A look at Rock-Hill area spread.
 (3/15/21)
 - Experts 'clear the air' on COVID-19 in the classroom after CCSD sees 800+ student cases in 2 months (3/17/21)



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)
 - South Dakota High School Activities Association amends constitution (8/25/20)
 - South Dakota high school football championships: Guide to safety protocols, tickets, more (11/10/20)
 - South Dakota Senate fine tunes law that lets education secretary waive school hours in emergencies (1/20/21)
 - South Dakota High School Activities Association
- Articles:
 - COVID-19 in South Dakota (3/1/21)
 - o Teachers patiently wait as South Dakota vaccine rollout continues (3/2/21)
 - South Dakota Regents Plot a Path Back to Normal (3/16/21)

Tennessee

- State DOE: https://www.tn.gov/education/health-and-safety/update-on-coronavirus.html
- Resources:
 - Tennessee State Board of Education FAQs
 - o Tennessee Department of State Division of Publications, Emergency Rules
 - State releases broad reopening guidance for schools; commissioner testifies in US Senate hearing (6/10/20 11:31pm)
 - Reopening Guidance
 - TSSAA adopts COVID-19 regulations and fall sports contingency plans (7/22/20)
 - Tennessee schools receive rapid test kits for COVID-19 (9/30/20)
 - Gov, Lee Calls For Temporary Suspension of Accountability Measures for 2020-2021 (10/16/20)
 - Tennessee Secondary School Athletics Association
- Articles:
 - o Tennessee Doubles Down On Literary In Its COVID-19 School Recovery Effort (2/22/21)
 - o Tennessee vaccination exemption bull stalls over concerns about teacher choice (3/3/21)
 - Spring break raises concerns over COVID-19 for schools (3/16/21)
 - o Prep Baseball: High school baseball returns after last season cut short by COVID-19 (3/16/21)

Texas

- Education Agency: https://bit.ly/3dFwBFi
- Resources:
 - o <u>TEA Issues Comprehensive Guidelines for a Safe Return to On-Campus Instruction for the 2020-21 School Year (7/7/20 3:01PM)</u>
 - 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:
 - 'I do not feel like it's safe to send my kids in school right now' Central Texas schools hit hard by COVID-19 (3/1/21)
 - Caught by surprise, Texas education officials unsure how end of mask mandate will affect schools (3/2/21)
 - o <u>Teachers immediately eligible for COVID-19 vaccine in Texas, plus school staff, childcare providers (3/3/21)</u>
 - o Covid-19: Texas schools, stores divided on masks as mandate ends (3/3/21)
 - State reports 3,188 COVID-19 cases in Texas public schools for week (3/12/21)
 - State begins 3rd phase of COVID-19 vaccinations (3/15/21)



Utah

- State Board of Education: https://schools.utah.gov/coronavirus
- Resources:
 - o Planning Requirements and Recommendations for K-12 School Reopening (6/26/20)
 - o UHSAA votes to approve fall sports and activities for 2020 (7/9/20)
 - Utah High School Activities Association
- Articles:
 - o COVID-19 is fueling innovation in Utah schools to help students focus and cope (2/19/21)
 - Updated pandemic 'endgame' bill would do away with most masks but leave face coverings in schools (3/3/21)
 - Utah races to get vaccines in arms ahead of COVOD-19 'endgame' (3/16/21)
 - o Five things COVID-19 has changed about education in Utah (3/12/21)

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:
 - Study finds low levels of COVID antibodies in Vt. Schools (3/4/21)
 - How Vermont plans to get students back in school, on path to recovery from COVID's impacts (3/4/21)
 - o News Roundup: Vermont Reports 113 New COVID-19 Cases (3/8/21)
 - o High school winter sports begin in Vermont (3/17/21)

Virginia

- Public Schools: http://www.doe.virginia.gov/support/health_medical/office/covid-19.shtml
- Resources:
 - o 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:
 - High school football returns in February to Virginia stadiums (2/27/21)
 - o Coronavirus in DC, Maryland, Virginia: What to Know on Mar. 3
 - Some kids likely won't get COVID vaccines until 2022: Is it safe for Virginia's schools to reopen now? (3/4/21)
 - Virginia officials update COVID-19 guidance to schools, as more districts move toward reopening classrooms (3/9/21)
 - o A year into COVID, Virginia school reopenings still in doubt (3/12/21)



- Department of Public Instruction: https://bit.ly/3897PfB
- Resources:
 - Reopening Washington Schools 2020: District Planning Guide (6/11/20)
 - WIAA's return-to-play guidance for 2020-21 high school sports approved by Washington state officials (7/22/20)
 - Washington Interscholastic Activities Association
 - How high school leagues across Washington are planning COVID-condensed 2021 season schedules (1/19/21)
- Articles:
 - Washington teachers now eligible for COVID-19 vaccine. Inslee announces (3/2/21)
 - Washington 13-year-old: School closures have been 'lonely and crushing' (3/4/21)
 - Washington students must be offered in-person learning by April 19, Inslee says (3/12/21)

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:
 - o 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)
 - WV schools mandated to return to full-time in-person learning (2/23/21)
 - New COVID-19 cases reported by area West Virginia school systems a week before full inperson return (2/26/21)
 - At least 60 COVID-19 cases, 218 quarantines announced by area West Virginia school systems (3/12/21)

Wisconsin

- Department of Public Instruction: https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/2019-novel-coronavirus
- Resources:
 - o Wisconsin officials release guidance on reopening schools (6/22/20)
 - Education Forward
 - 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:
 - Wisconsin teachers become eligible for COVID vaccine Monday, but many face uncertain wait (2/25/21)
 - Republicans want Wisconsin to fund opening schools now; state says money is needed for return to normal later (3/4/21)
 - o Ivers Administration Puts Forward Plan For COVID-19 Child Care Aid (3/4/21)
 - o Timeline of how the COVID-19 pandemic has played out in Wisconsin (3/11/21)

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)
 - o 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 will lift COVID-19 restrictions on salons, barbers, and other personal car businesses (2/25/21)



- Editorial Board: Wyoming schools deserve praise for how they've managed the pandemic (2/28/21)
- Wyoming will lift mask mandate next week (3/8/21)
- Schools weigh whether to seat students closer together (3/16/21)

Department of Defense Education Activity Schools

- Most DODEA schools in Germany to return to in-person classes as coronavirus number drop (2/18/21)
- Virtual learning will be limited to 2,000 DODEA students worldwide next school year (3/15/21)
- Italy tightens coronavirus restrictions as cases surge nationwide (3/14/21)

Other Agencies and Organizations

US Department of Defense - https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus/

- MIC3 Department of Defense Memorandums and Information webpage
- Website: <u>Latest DOD Guidance</u> (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)
- <u>Transition to Conditions-based Phased Approach to Coronavirus Disease 2019 Personnel Movement</u> 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 <u>Stop Movement Order</u> 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

National Military Family Association -

https://www.militaryfamily.org/what-military-families-need-to-know-about-covid-19/

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

Military One-Source - Coronavirus Updates for our Military Community