

## Back to School RI: *Health and Safety Guidance to Reopen Rhode Island's Elementary and Secondary Schools*

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## Rhode Island's Approach to Reopening Schools:

### Vision and Context

Since Governor Gina Raimondo and Commissioner Angélica Infante-Green announced that school buildings are closing in Rhode Island on March 13, 2020, the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), along with the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) and community and school leaders have been preparing for the reopening of schools for the 2020-2021 school year (SY20-21). The core principles for this process are to provide the highest quality educational experiences for all children while implementing the best strategies to ensure the health and safety for our students and the entire educational community.

The State has made tremendous progress through implementing distance learning in the last several months, but recognizes that educational outcomes, social emotional health, and well-being of students are optimal when students can learn in person. Understanding of COVID-19 and related best practices is constantly evolving through better data, research, and examples from other countries. With that in mind, the State is committed to working with schools to ensure as many students as possible are able to return to in-person learning at the beginning of the school year.

RIDE is providing two documents to help school systems plan for reopening for the 2020-21 school year:

Document	Purpose
Guidance Document	This guidance document provides information on the requirements that school systems will use to plan for reopening. This document is intended to guide school systems as they develop in-depth plans in preparation for next school year.
Planning Template	A planning template that all public schools are required to complete and submit to RIDE, using information provided in this guidance document.

**In recognition of the uncertainty, the State is requiring all schools to prepare for different scenarios, in accordance with the guidelines established below. RIDE and RIDOH will continue to update this document, and others, as more public health information and guidance become available.**

Public schools will be required to submit their plans to RIDE by July 17, and RIDE will give feedback given to each school on an ongoing basis through July 28. Each Local Educational Agency (LEA) will be required to make its plan available to families and post it on their schools' website no later than July 31.

While this document is written for public LEAs, private schools are also required to complete school reopening plans that are in alignment with the provided guidance and template documents to ensure the health and safety of their school community. While private schools are not required to submit their plans to RIDE, they should be able to produce plans upon request by RIDOH if a positive case or outbreak occurs. Each private school is required to have its plan available on its website by July 31.

## Guiding Principles

To support all stakeholders in reopening schools, RIDE will follow five guiding principles for the planning, decision-making, and execution of returning to school:

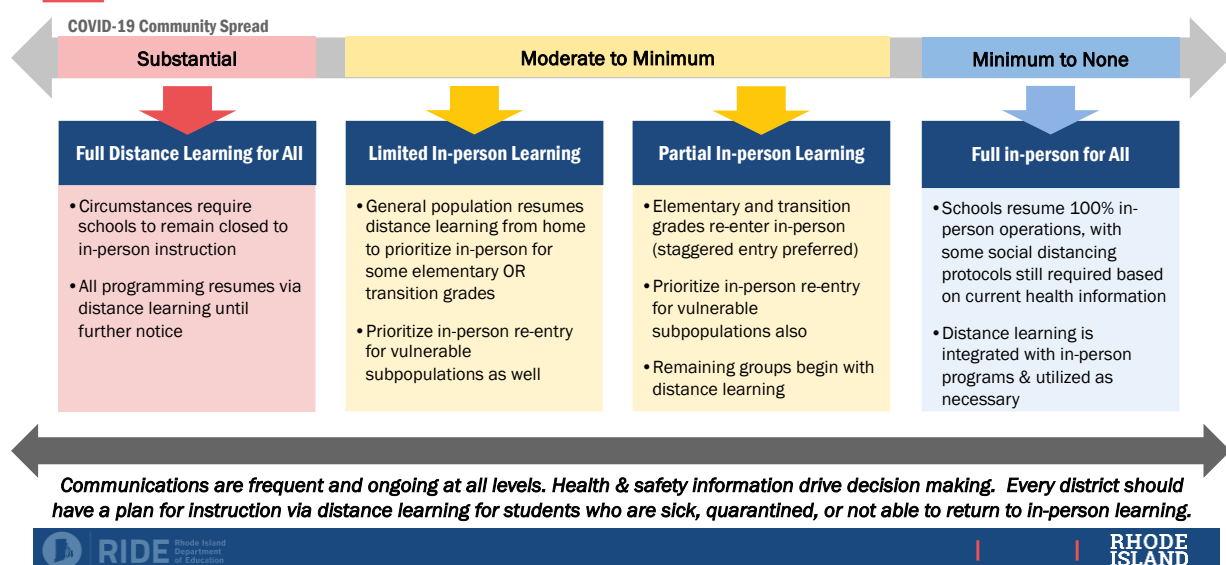
- 1) **We will put safety first.** We will leverage science, data, and public health leadership to inform the choices we make.
- 2) **We will be transparent.** We will share what we know and what we do not know. We will be clear about what we can control and what is outside of our control.
- 3) **We will be equitable.** We will center decisions on what is best for all students, families, and educators, especially those most impacted by educational inequities and COVID-19. We will remember that equitable does not mean equal, and we will strive to give students, families, educators, and communities what they need, knowing that our communities have been hit by the virus at different magnitudes.
- 4) **We will listen.** We will bring together diverse stakeholders and experts to understand the realities on the ground and develop and share creative solutions.
- 5) **We will be decisive.** Given the size and scope of the challenge, we must move deliberately and make tough choices. We will need to be flexible and nimble, and we will adapt quickly as variables on the ground change.

## Preparing for Multiple Reopening Scenarios

Given the uncertainty of the spread of the disease and impact on the State and its different communities, schools should prepare for multiple reopening scenarios ranging from limited to full in-person instruction.

The continuum below depicts starting scenarios, which are dependent on the amount of community spread of COVID-19. The continuum spans from full distance learning to full in-person learning, in accordance with Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and RIDOH guidance.

## How will RI reopen schools? Potential scenarios



For planning purposes, LEAs are required to submit a plan that covers each of three specific scenarios:

- Limited In-Person
- Partial In-Person
- Full In-Person

**Planning for each scenario will need to incorporate some distance learning;** it may be widespread, minimally used for staggered schedules, or only utilized for students who are home sick or in quarantine. The various scenarios identify opportunities to expand in-person learning as risk for contracting COVID-19 decreases. **Health and safety will drive all decision making.**

The template plan outlines what elements are required for each school system and for each school to have given each scenario, as well as recommended best practices for schools to consider.

## Ongoing Communication and Support

To support LEAs in the development and implementation of plans, RIDE will continue a point-of-contact structure that allows every LEA in Rhode Island to have a designated individual who can respond to questions and provide direct support.

RIDE has initiated regional LEA leader meetings to share ongoing information. RIDE will continue to host meetings and webinars with LEA leaders to discuss common areas of need. RIDE will also provide support during the review and ongoing development of plans beyond the initial submission deadline by hosting regional meetings with LEA leaders to provide information, respond to and gather questions, and address concerns.

In addition to direct outreach, RIDE will provide ongoing supplemental information to assist school systems in successful planning. This will include planning frameworks, FAQ documents, detailed guidance to support instruction, mental health resources, transportation, and other critical areas that must be addressed prior to reopening.

Critical to successful communication will be the role school systems play in engaging their various stakeholders to develop, communicate, and implement their reopening plans. RIDE recently [released guidance](#) on how school systems should initiate system-wide Reopening Schools Committees. RIDE recently released guidance on how school systems should form these committees, which can be found [here](#). The committee should consider the following:

- Determine a leader with single-point accountability, meaning there is one person who is ultimately responsible.
- Ensure a diverse group of perspectives and skill sets are represented. Key stakeholder groups may include, but are not limited to, central office staff, Director of Maintenance, Head of Human Resources, Special Education Directors, Technology Director, Principal(s), Certified and Non-certified Staff, Union Presidents, parents, School Committee Chairperson, Director of Food Services, a behavioral health worker, and a school nurse.

- Include a representative from each school in the district, or, at minimum, at least one from each educational level (i.e., elementary, middle, high).
- Consider additional stakeholder groups that need to be consulted with, but not necessarily serve as standing members of the committee (e.g. transportation, before/after school care).

Each LEA plan must include information in their reopening plans about how the LEA will communicate new protocols to families, students, and staff. Plans must also include information about how training will be provided to all students and staff prior to school reopening and throughout the school year. This targeted education will be needed for all groups to ensure that students, families, and educators know what is expected of them as they successfully return to the school community. In addition, signs and other information inside and outside school buildings can be a helpful tool in reminding all individuals of required procedures.

## School Reopening Guidance:

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### About the School Reopening Guidance

This document provides a roadmap for reopening Rhode Island schools. Each section outlines critical information to assist in the development of plans for reopening.

In each of these sections, guidance and requirements to safely operate schools for the different reopening scenarios that schools might face are outlined. It identifies policies that are required to safely reopen and gives recommendations for implementation that may differ based on each LEA's context. For some areas, the requirements will be consistent for all different in-person learning scenarios, while other areas will have different requirements and recommendations based on how much in-person learning will occur. For those areas, plans will need to include how they would implement the different requirements.

This guidance document is based on the most up-to-date public health recommendations given the evidence. It does not, however, constitute medical advice, and will be revised in real time as the epidemic evolves.

**As more health information becomes available, RIDE will update this guidance accordingly to keep all stakeholders informed.**

### Distance Learning

**Distance learning means any curriculum, materials, and teaching occurs during the school day but not in the school building.** This can include physical materials, online materials, and digital platforms. Distance learning curriculum and activities will continue to meet the expectations of grade-level standards and will be designed to meet the needs of all students, including multilingual learners and those who are differently-abled.

Distance learning must be part of the plans for reopening in each reopening scenario. At all points along the continuum, a hybrid of in-person and distance learning may take place, and schools must be prepared for this reality. Below is the general guidance for how distance learning aligns with each of the three in-person school reopening scenarios.

- **Full In-person:** Students who are unable to attend in-person classes must be provided with distance learning. LEA plans should address how distance learning will be utilized for classes, groups of students, or individual students who are home sick, due to quarantine, or other reasons.
- **Partial In-person:** Some students attend classes in person while others participate in distance learning. LEA plans should address how distance learning will be utilized for classes, groups of students, or individual students who are home sick, due to quarantine or other reasons.
- **Limited In-person:** Many students participate in distance learning classes. LEA plans should address how distance learning will be utilized for classes, groups of students, or individual students who are home sick, due to quarantine, or other reasons.

## Class and Group Size Limits

Schools will fundamentally look different when students and staff return this fall. Class sizes may be reduced, opportunities for students to socialize will be more limited, and new health measures and cleaning protocols will need to be implemented. The information below outlines class and group size limits, organized by each in-person reopening scenario and with differentiated information for elementary, middle, and high schools, as appropriate.

LEA plans must include approaches to meeting the requirements for each scenario below. LEAs should also consider how to maximize and prepare space in buildings to meet health and safety requirements.

### Full In-person Reopening Scenario

- **Elementary and Middle Schools:** These students will be required to maintain stable groups of up to 30 (analogous to the pod method for summer camp and childcare). This capacity includes both students and staff. Stable groups help to mitigate the risk of spreading the virus. It is still expected that individuals within stable groups maintain as much physical distance as possible. Stable groups are designed to spend all or most of the day together as a group. Each class/pod will be expected to physically distance (14 feet) from every other class/pod.
- **High Schools:** Recognizing that it is more difficult to establish and maintain stable groups in a high school schedule, more than one approach is possible. Stable groups are recommended and should be maintained whenever possible (i.e., students should stay in the same classroom and teachers should rotate rooms whenever possible). If stable groups are not possible, high school students must maintain six feet of physical distance and require the wearing of face masks if maintaining six feet of distance is not possible.
- **Groups in Larger Spaces:** For all grades, more than one stable group may be in a larger space with another stable group, such as an auditorium, but stable groups must remain separated from each other by at least 14 feet. For all grades, groups of students indoors may not exceed the state's maximum allowable group size during the applicable Reopening RI phase. For example, if the maximum group size is 50, multiple stable groups sharing a large space must not exceed 50.

For all grades, the use of partitions or other dividers to create separation between students or groups is recommended. Any partition being used is most effective if it is taller than the height of students and teachers. Separation reduces the risk of transmission across groups.

- **Staff:** Staff are expected to physically distance from each other unless they are part of the same class or stable group. Staff who are not assigned to a stable group should maintain six feet of physical distance whenever possible and should wear face masks.

### Partial In-person Reopening Scenario

- **Elementary and Middle Schools:** These students will be required to maintain stable groups of up to 30 (analogous to the pod method for summer camp and childcare). This capacity includes both students and staff. Stable groups help to mitigate the risk of spreading the



virus. It is still expected that individuals within stable groups maintain as much physical distance as possible. Stable groups are designed to spend all or most of the day together as a group. Each class/pod will be expected to physically distance (14 feet) from every other class/pod

- **High Schools:** High Schools can select which of the following requirements they will follow:
  - Stable groups (up to 30 people) should be maintained whenever possible (i.e., student groups should stay the same and teachers rotate whenever possible); or,
  - If not able to maintain stable groups, approximately 50% of the students in a high school can be present in person at any one time.

High school students must maintain six feet of physical distance and must wear face masks if six feet of distance is not possible.

- **Groups in Larger Spaces:** For all grades, more than one stable group may be in a larger space with another stable group, such as an auditorium, but stable groups must remain separated from each other by at least 14 feet. For all grades, groups of students indoors may not exceed the State's maximum group size according to the applicable Reopening RI phase.
- **Staff:** Staff are expected to physically distance from each other unless they are part of the same class or stable group. Staff who are not assigned to a stable group should maintain six feet of physical distance whenever possible and should wear face masks.

## Limited In-person Reopening Scenario

- **Elementary and Middle Schools:** These students will be required to maintain stable groups of 15 or fewer in classrooms. Stable groups help to mitigate the risk of spreading the virus. It is still expected that individuals within stable groups maintain as much physical distance as possible. Each class/pod will be expected to physically distance (14 feet) from every other class/pod.
- **High Schools:** High Schools can pick which of the following two requirements they follow:
  - Smaller stable groups (maximum of 15) should be maintained whenever possible (i.e., student groups should stay the same and teachers rotate whenever possible);
  - If not able to maintain stable groups, approximately 25% of the students in a high school can be in person at any one time.

Students must maintain six feet of physical distancing and require must wear face masks if six feet of distance is not possible.

- **Groups in Larger Spaces:** For all grades, more than one stable group may be in a larger space with another stable group, such as an auditorium, but stable groups must remain separated from each other by at least 14 feet. For all grades, groups of students indoors may not exceed the State's maximum allowable group size during the applicable Reopening RI phase.
- **Staff:** Staff are expected to physically distance from each other unless they are part of the same class or stable group. Staff who are not assigned to a stable group should maintain six feet of physical distance whenever possible and should wear face masks.

## Classroom Layouts and Use of School Spaces

Guidance in this section is the same for all three in-person reopening scenarios. It is important to follow and maintain physical distancing strategies and cleaning protocols. LEA plans will outline the designs that will be used in the LEA to ensure safe movement around buildings, cleaning protocols, classroom layout options, and the meal procedures and spaces that will be implemented.

- **General Spacing and Movement:** Stable groups must occupy consistent space as much as possible. This means each stable group uses the same classroom every day, the same entrance every day (if possible), the same hallways, bathrooms, and other areas of the school building. When shared space is used by multiple stable groups or by high school students who are not in stable groups, disinfecting must occur in between the times when stable groups or groups of high school students use the space. Equipment and materials in shared spaces and in classrooms should not change from one student to another. Whenever possible, shared objects should be limited to sharing within that stable group.
- **Classroom Layout:** LEA Plans must include a design for general classroom layouts at elementary, middle, and high schools. The spacing of desks/tables should be separated as much as possible. The largest classes should be held in the largest spaces. Schools should encourage converting non-traditional spaces into classrooms to create additional classroom spaces and encourage activities to be held outdoors whenever possible.
  - **Assigned seating:** During partial and limited in-person reopening scenarios, students must have assigned seats while in stable groups or smaller high school groups. Even during a full in-person reopening of school, teachers should have seating charts with assigned student seats.
  - **Facing the same direction:** To the extent possible, students should be seated so all students are facing forward, and not facing each other, to prevent the possible transmission of the virus. At a round table, this may mean sitting in a half moon shape to allow for physical distancing and students to face forward.
- **Hallways:** During reopening in the fall, outlining a plan for hallway use and minimizing congestion will be an important step in the planning process. LEA plans must include strategies such as staggered passing times or one-way traffic in hallways. Plans must include how lockers may be used, with the strong recommendation of having students carry backpacks instead of using lockers.
- **Bathrooms:** During all reopening scenarios, bathrooms must be cleaned and disinfected frequently in line with [CDC guidance](#).

When possible, stable groups should be assigned to use the same bathroom which is cleaned and disinfected between uses by different groups. For example, each first-floor bathroom may be assigned to a specific set of students and each second-floor bathroom to a different set of students.

- **Dining/Cafeterias:** For elementary and middle schools that have stable groups in place, lunch should place in the same space as class activities when possible—likely in a classroom. When possible, outdoor dining is also encouraged.
  - LEA plans may propose an alternative to providing lunch in the same space as classroom activities. If the LEA proposes an alternative that would permit stable

groups to share a larger space, cleaning and disinfecting must occur between stable-group use. If more than one stable group utilizes the same larger space for meals at the same time, a minimum distance of 14 feet must be maintained at all times between stable groups.

For high schools, the number of people in any room for lunch (e.g., the cafeteria) must never exceed the maximum allowable statewide gathering size. When possible, students should sit at least six feet apart and use partitions to create barriers between groups. If multiple stable groups are in one, larger shared space, at least 14 feet of distance must be maintained between groups. The use of partitions or other dividers to create separation between groups is recommended but does not substitute for physical distancing. Any partition being used is most effective when it is taller than the height of students. Separation reduces the risk of transmission across groups. If physical distancing can be maintained, barriers are not needed. When possible, outdoor dining is also encouraged.

## Cleaning Surfaces and School Areas

Consistent cleaning, disinfecting, and ventilation practices reduce the potential transmission of the virus. Schools are required to adhere to CDC guidance for [schools](#) regarding the cleaning and disinfecting of all surfaces and spaces, and to the general CDC guidance on the [process of cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting surfaces](#).

Surfaces that are frequently touched throughout the day should be cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected multiple times per day or, for shared objects, between use. Coronavirus can survive on hard surfaces from hours to days. More aggressive cleaning routines are required to ensure a safe return to school for all. As it is more difficult to clean, sanitize, and disinfect porous surfaces (i.e., soft or plush materials), schools are advised to avoid using these items. Examples include bean bag chairs and stuffed animals.

Please see the below guidance that is applicable to all in-person reopening scenarios:

- **Frequently touched items:** Frequently touched surfaces, classroom objects, desks, and other equipment need to be cleaned frequently. For example, staff may choose to disinfect the classroom doorknob after daily drop-off, when children transition back to the classroom from another space or outdoor play, and after daily dismissal. If a school rotates groups through the gym or outdoor playground, the play equipment must be cleaned, sanitized, and disinfected between uses by different groups. For situations where groups of students move between classrooms, such as in high schools, cleaning of the desks must take place between classes.
- **Hands-on Class Spaces:** Libraries, computer labs, art rooms, and other hands-on classrooms should be cleaned in between class periods. In high schools, where students may travel to different classrooms, desks and other objects should be cleaned between class periods.
- **Handwashing:** Schools must ensure that employees, students, and visitors have access to soap and water and/or hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol at all times. Frequent handwashing must be practiced. Gloves are not required, except for custodial staff who are cleaning and in specific situations where more protective equipment is needed.

- **Water Usage:** Take steps to ensure that all water systems and features (water fountains, ice machines, coffee pots) are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown to minimize poor water quality, risk of Legionnaires' disease, and other diseases associated with stagnant water. If unable to ensure necessary cleaning of water systems, they should be temporarily shut off. Bottled water may be provided to students and staff. Water fountains that require physical contact (i.e. need to press a button to operate) are not recommended at this time. Contactless water-filling stations can be used. However, when possible, identify alternate methods for supplying drinking water.
- **Disinfectants:** Disinfectants are strong chemicals, and accidental exposure to these toxins can cause significant harm to anyone's health. It is essential that when using disinfectants, school facilities staff follow the manufacturer's directions and keep the products out of reach of students.
  - With the increased use of disinfectants, it is important to ensure ventilation systems operate properly and are able to increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible. Keep windows and doors open and use fans and other methods when possible.
  - Do not open windows or doors if doing so poses a safety or health risk to staff or children. For example, if a window is at the height where a child may access it and the window does not have screen, or a child has an identified allergy or asthma and symptoms may worsen with increased outdoor airflow, the window should not be open.

## Face Coverings

**For all in-person reopening scenarios, it is recommended that face coverings be used by students and staff, when possible, even in stable group settings.** Cloth face coverings can be helpful in preventing virus transmission.

- Employees are required to wear face coverings except when with a consistent stable group.
- Face coverings are recommended, but are not required, in settings where people can easily and continuously maintain at least six feet of distance from other people.
- Visitors are required to wear face coverings when inside a school building or interacting with students outdoors.
- Cloth face coverings should not be placed on children younger than age two; anyone who has trouble breathing; or anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- Older students may tolerate wearing face masks for longer periods of time. For high school students, face masks should be worn whenever six feet of physical distancing is not feasible.
- Protective face coverings are not required for certain individuals, [per CDC guidance](#), or for anyone for whom use of such face covering would be damaging to his or her health; who is developmentally unable to use such face covering, including young children who may not be able to effectively wear a face mask; when a face covering would inhibit an activity of daily living (e.g. eating); or when a face covering would itself negatively impact the safety of an individual or lead to an increased risk of harm to others (e.g. near open flames).

Schools will need extra face masks/face coverings for some classrooms where close proximity and supports to students require it. Usually, this will involve classrooms for some differently-abled students. Schools will also need face masks and coverings for students and/or staff who do not have their own.

## Screening Students and Staff

Screening protocols for students and staff need to be developed and communicated to all parents, students, educators, and staff prior to beginning in-person instruction. Parents must screen students at home using a [self-attestation form](#) or an App. All students must stay home if they fail the screening prior to leaving for [school](#). If a student screens positive for any COVID-19 symptoms, the student's parent/guardian should seek medical advice from the student's healthcare provider and inform the school of the student's absence.

- **Students:** Families will screen students at home using a self-attestation form or a web-based application (i.e. [Crush COVID RI or self-attestation form](#)). All students must stay home if they fail the screening prior to leaving for school. Families should consult with their physician and inform the school of the student's absence. If a student screens positive for any COVID-19 symptoms, the student's parent/guardian should seek medical advice from the student's healthcare provider and inform the school of the student's absence.
- **Staff:** Staff are required to complete a self-attestation form or web-based application such as Crush COVID RI prior to arriving at school or are required to be screened before entering the school building. When using self-attestation as a screening method, employers must request forms. If a staff member screens positive for any COVID-19 symptoms, the person should not come to, or enter, school, should inform a supervisor, and should seek medical advice from a healthcare provider.
- **Additional screening:** In addition to at-home screening, schools may also opt for on-site verbal symptom screening and/or temperature checks. For more information about temperature checks, visit the [CDC website](#). This is highly recommended if a positive case is found within a school setting.

## School Schedules

Determining school schedules, including procedures for drop-off and pick-up times and handling visitors, plays an important role in navigating COVID-19 as schools reopen.

**LEAs must submit a sample schedule with the plan of how to approach all three in-person reopening scenarios.** Sample schedules should be for all different age groups and settings. Scheduling should consider policies around drop off, pick up, meals, passing times (such as between classes), and physical distancing protocols. Schools should consider drop-off and pick-up protocols that encourage physical distancing and limit gatherings of large groups in confined spaces.

Schedules for elementary, middle, and high schools will vary based on the details of reopening. School schedules will be different across schools, since each school has its own unique program type, physical space, and student and staff considerations.

## Full In-Person Reopening Scenario:

- Drop-off and pick-up procedures must follow [CDC guidelines](#), including maintaining 14 feet of distance between stable groups and physical distancing of six feet whenever possible for any other individuals outside of a stable group.
- Staggered arrival times, assigning entrance and exit doors to stable groups, and assigning different drop-off points are examples LEAs can use when planning. Having school staff bring children to pick-up points, instead of parents entering buildings, is also recommended.

## Partial In-Person and Limited In-Person Scenarios:

Guidelines are the same for these scenarios, but plans must detail how those guidelines will be implemented given the other requirements of the scenario.

- If fewer students are able to return to school or stable group sizes are smaller, LEA plans must still address schools' schedules for all the same areas outlined above.
- Priority for in-person schedules should be for elementary and middle school transition grades (i.e. kindergarten, 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> depending on the district, and 9<sup>th</sup> grade) and special populations.
- Schools may consider a range of potential options when determining in-person school schedules:
  - Utilize schedules that alternate when groups of students are attending school in-person to help allow more students to experience some time engaging with in-person activities.
  - Consider alternating days or weeks, although this is not recommended for younger students. Schools might also consider specifying only certain grades for returning in person.
  - Establish morning and afternoon sessions, as long as cleaning and disinfecting can take place between sessions.

## School Visitors

To reduce the risk of exposure, limiting visitors in schools is generally encouraged. Schools may encourage only one parent/guardian to visit a building when possible and continue to utilize virtual communication options with families.

- **Full In-person re-opening scenario:** Visitors may enter the school building, but limits should still be considered. A 30-day log of all visitors is required, and must document the date, contact phone number, and arrival/departure times. All visitors must wear face coverings.
- **Partial and Limited In-person Reopening Scenarios:** Visitors are not allowed, to the greatest extent possible.
  - Visitors necessary for drop off or pick up must wear face coverings.
  - Visitors must only enter and exit the school building via only one location.



- A 30-day log of all visitors is required, and must document the date, contact phone number, and arrival/departure times. It is recommended that the same adult drop off and pick up the child each day.

## Busing and Student Transportation

**It will be necessary for all LEAs to consider multiple solutions for student transportation, and no one solution will work statewide given the unique circumstances of each district and school.** Each LEA will need to outline how it is going to address the transportation needs of its community.

For use of traditional school buses, the following required guidance must be followed for each of the three in-person reopening scenarios. To ensure student compliance with the health-and-safety guidelines for buses, additional bus monitors are strongly recommended for every bus.

### Full In-Person Reopening Scenario:

- All students on buses are required to wear masks (with the exception of children younger than age two and anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance).
- Students using the bus are scheduled as a stable group, and the bus group is considered its own stable group.
- Hand sanitizer must be available and used when entering and exiting the bus.
- Students are screened when getting on the bus and are seated to physically distance as much as possible.
- All students have assigned seats on the bus and ride the same bus to and from school.
- Students must sit one per seat, unless students are from the same household. Siblings and students from the same household should sit together.
- Students on the bus all sit facing forward.
- Since each bus is its own stable group, the same group of students is assigned to the bus every day. Locations for drop-off and pick-up are the same every day, with the same group of students every day. As much as possible, drivers and staff helping with busing should be the same for each bus, each day.
- LEA plans must include specific considerations for differently-abled students and specific protocols identified on a student's Individual Education Program (IEP).
- Physical distancing at bus stops and during drop-off and pick-up is recommended. Measures must be taken to physically distance as much as possible.
- Signs should be posted on buses to remind students of protocols. Reminders about screening prior to boarding buses should also be posted for families.
- Drivers, monitors, and other staff must be screened daily. Face coverings are required for all drivers and staff.
- High-touch surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected between bus runs. All buses should be disinfected at the end of each day.
- To ensure student compliance with the health-and-safety guidelines for buses, additional bus monitors are strongly recommended for every bus.



## Partial In-Person Reopening Scenario:

- Same mitigation tactics as for the full in-person option, except overall capacity of the bus is reduced to 50%. Extra precautions should also be taken to ensure compliance with procedures.
- All students entering the bus must wear face coverings, with the exception of students younger than age two or anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- Students using the bus are scheduled as a stable group, and the bus group is considered its own stable group.
- Hand sanitizer must be available and used when entering and exiting the bus.
- Students are screened when getting on the bus and are seated to physically distance as much as possible.
- All students have assigned seats on the bus and ride the same bus to and from school.
- Students must sit one per seat unless students are from the same household. Siblings and students from the same household should sit together.
- Students on the bus all sit facing forward.
- Locations for drop-off and pick-up are the same every day, with the same group of students every day. As much as possible, drivers and staff helping with busing should be the same for each bus, each day.
- LEA plans need to include specific considerations for differently-abled students and specific protocols identified on a student's Individual Education Program (IEP).
- Physical distancing at bus stops and during drop-off and pick-up is recommended. Measures need to be taken to physically distance as much as possible.
- Signs should be posted on buses to remind students of protocols. Reminders about screening prior to boarding buses should also be posted for families.
- Drivers, monitors, and other staff are screened daily.

## Limited In-Person Reopening Scenario:

- Procedures are the same as for the partial in-person reopening scenario. Overall bus capacity is reduced to follow specific [CDC guidance](#). This includes one student per seat, using every other seat.

## Alternate Transportation Options:

Given the restraints that this health-and-safety guidance imposes, LEAS should propose solutions in their plans given the context of their community. Some possible examples include:

Possible examples to increase modes of transportation	Possible examples to decrease demand for buses
<p>Identifying other modes of transportation such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different kinds of vehicles to use for transportation beyond buses</li> <li>• Contracting with non-traditional bus providers (ex: commercial coaches)</li> <li>• Encourage carpooling with consistent groups driving together</li> </ul> <p>Based on input from LEAs, the State could consider regulation changes to help increase transportation supply.</p>	<p>LEAs are encouraged to survey parents about their need and leverage their school community, such as parent-teacher associations, to think of innovative solutions. Some examples might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus lottery</li> <li>• Walking school buses</li> <li>• Bike to school campaign and/or creating a “bike zone”</li> <li>• Subsidizing bikes costs or providing mileage reimbursement for families who have used the bus in the past but decided not to this year</li> <li>• Evaluate the scheduling of the school day differently to make it easier for parents to provide transportation.</li> </ul>

## Specific School Activities (Recess/Field Trips/Athletics/Before and After School Programming)

### Recess

Requirements for recess are applicable under all scenarios for reopening. Stable groups must remain consistent during any recess activities. This means the same classroom groups participate in recess activities as a stable group. If recess takes place in a large space, more than one stable group may share the space as long as 14 feet of physical distance can be maintained between groups and the size of the combined groups does not exceed the State’s maximum group size.

Handwashing is required before and after recess. Schools may elect to limit recess activities until appropriate mitigation measures can be taken.

### Field Trips

In-person field trips will not be allowed during these initial reopening phases. Virtual field trips are encouraged.

### Athletics

Further guidance on fall athletics will be provided later this summer. For the most recent rules, please visit [ReopeningRI](https://reopeningri.com).

### Band and Chorus

It is recommended that activities such as chorus and any group band rehearsal or performance be suspended or occur virtually. If schools choose for them to happen in-person, students and staff should be at least 14 feet apart, and the chorus size should not be greater than the stable group size for high schools where students are not in stable groups. It is recommended to establish student groups that are consistent with class or bus groups whenever possible.

## Before and After School Programming

LEA Plans must address all school-related, before and after school programming. Stable group sizes and group size limits also apply to before and after school programming. In all reopening scenarios, physical distancing rules will be in place for both younger and older students. Stable groups will also need to be established for activities, ensuring that students are in the same group for all activities.

It is recommended to establish student groups that are consistent with class or bus groups whenever possible. If physical distancing is a challenge, the use of face coverings is allowed within the group while continuing to maintain as much physical distance as possible.

Requirements for drop off or pick up for activities are the same as those used for drop-off and pick-up at school.

## Supporting Vulnerable Groups in Returning to In-Person Activities

### Educationally Vulnerable Group of Students

**An educationally vulnerable group is any sub-population of students that is more at risk of lagging academic performance with the continuation of distance learning.** This includes students who are:

- Differently-abled;
- Multilingual learners;
- Homeless or living in temporary housing;
- Migrant;
- At-risk of leaving school;
- Live in poverty or whose families face other challenges; and/or,
- Directly affected by COVID-19.

For all in-person reopening scenarios, LEA plans must address what returning to school will look like for these vulnerable populations and include additional supports being provided for both in-person and in-distance learning scenarios.

### People at Higher Risk for Severe Illness from COVID-19:

High-risk groups include anyone who is:

- Age 65 or older; and/or,
- Living with hypertension, diabetes, pulmonary disease, immunosuppression, and/or other chronic, long-term health conditions <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/index.html>

LEA plans must address steps that will be taken to support these medically vulnerable groups in returning to school buildings as well as continuing to support working and learning from home when necessary. Protocols are needed to minimize risk to students who return, and some students may need to continue distance learning.

Accommodations for staff may include assignments that minimize interaction or allow continued work at home.

Families and staff members should consult with healthcare providers as part of planning to return to school.

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for School Nurses

School healthcare professionals should follow CDC guidance on infection control and use of [PPE](#). When in close contact with, or treating, a patient suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 recommended PPE includes N-95 respirator (or face mask if N-95 is unavailable), eye protection (goggles or face shield), gloves, and gown. Due to the shortages of gowns nationwide, a substitution may be necessary (i.e. lab coat). Additional information regarding PPE can be found at these links:

- [Strategies to Optimize supply of PPE](#)
- [PPE supply tracking](#)

It is also important to conserve PPE when it is in short supply. For more information, please review [RIDOH's document](#) regarding PPE conservation.

**NOTE:** In addition to the nurse's office, schools will need PPE for professionals whose work involves close proximity to students or hands-on personal assistance to students. Schools will also need face masks and coverings for students and/or staff who may not have their own.

## Responding to Staff or Students who are Sick

RIDE will be providing more detailed information in the coming weeks, through a "Playbook," regarding how schools should address symptomatic students and staff, and how to respond to a positive COVID-19 case and/or outbreak at their schools. For planning purposes, please use the following information.

### Students

Any students [experiencing symptoms of COVID-19](#) before the school day begins should stay home. If a student develops COVID-19 symptoms while at school, the child should be taken to the school nurse and the isolation room immediately. Parents/guardians should be notified to pick up the student within the hour. Parents/guardians should seek medical advice for the student within 48 hours and schedule a COVID-19 test as needed.

Symptomatic students will not be permitted to return to school until documentation from a medical provider indicates testing was negative and there are no other restrictions, there is no evidence of illness restricting attendance, or it is documented that the individual is no longer contagious.

If the test result is positive, individuals must complete a period of isolation as directed by RIDOH.

### Staff

Anyone who feels ill before the school day begins should stay home. If a staff member develops symptoms of COVID-19 while at school, they should go home immediately. Within 48 hours, they

should seek medical advice by consulting with a healthcare provider. The staff member should get a COVID-19 test as needed and notify their employer as soon as the result of the test is known.

Symptomatic staff will not be permitted to return to work until documentation from a medical provider indicates testing was negative and there are no other restrictions or there is no evidence of illness restricting attendance, or it is documented that the individual is no longer contagious. If the test result is positive, individuals must complete a period of isolation as directed by RIDOH.

## Cleaning

As soon as possible, all items touched by the staff member or student who is ill at school must be removed, cleaned, and disinfected. Any common surfaces must be cleaned and disinfected as well. If possible, items should be moved, windows should be opened, or other measures should be instituted to increase ventilation. Additional guidance can be found here

- [CDC/EPA Cleaning and Disinfecting Guidance](#)
- [CDC: Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility](#)

## Appendix: Synthesis of School Reopening Guidance

This appendix includes the same information that is found in the main body of this document. It represents it visually so that it is easy to compare the requirements of schools across the three different scenarios. Districts will be required to submit plans that describe how they will meet the requirements in the below table in each given scenario.

### Overview of School Reopening Scenarios

Section	Limited in-Person Learning	Partial In-Person Learning	Full In-Person Learning
High Level Overview	<p>General population resumes distance learning from home to prioritize in person for some elementary OR transition grades.</p> <p>Prioritize in-person reentry for educationally vulnerable subgroups (i.e. differently abled students and multi-lingual learners).</p>	<p>Elementary and transition grades reenter in person, with staggered entry preferred.</p> <p>Remaining groups begin the school year with distance learning</p>	<p>Schools resume 100% in-person operations, with some physical distancing protocols still required based on current health information</p> <p>Distance learning is integrated with in-person programs and utilized as necessary</p>

### Distance Learning

Section	Limited in-Person Learning	Partial In-Person Learning	Full In-Person Learning
Distance Learning	<p>Many students participate in distance learning.</p> <p>Plans must include how distance learning will be utilized for population not in person and if a student or stable group becomes sick, quarantined, or otherwise needs to switch to distance learning.</p>	<p>Some students participate in distance learning.</p> <p>Plans must include how distance learning will be utilized for population not in person and if a student or stable group becomes sick, quarantined, or otherwise needs to switch to distance learning.</p>	<p>Plans are still expected to include how they would implement distance learning for some population of students. For example: if a pod or group of kids need to be kept home due to quarantine.</p>

## Class and Group Size Limits

Section	Limited in-Person Learning	Partial In-Person Learning	Full In-Person Learning
Elementary and Middle School	<p>Only allow in-person options for elementary and middle school that can guarantee staying in the same stable group of 15</p> <p>Even if in a stable group, all students and teachers should try to maintain six feet of physical distance as much as possible.</p> <p>Each class/pod will be expected to physically distance (14 feet) from every other class/pod.</p>	<p>Only allow in-person options for elementary and middle school that can guarantee staying in the same stable group of 30.</p> <p>Even if in a stable group, all students and teachers should try to maintain six feet of physical distance as much as possible.</p> <p>Each class/pod will be expected to physically distance (14 feet) from every other class/pod.</p>	<p>Elementary and middle schools are required to maintain stable groups of 30.</p> <p>Even if in a stable group, all students and teachers should try to maintain six feet of physical distance as much as possible.</p> <p>Each class/pod will be expected to physically distance (14 feet) from every other class/pod.</p>
High School	<p>High schools can pick which of the following two requirements they follow:</p> <p>1) Smaller stable groups (15 maximum) should be maintained whenever possible (i.e. student groups should stay the same and teachers rotate whenever possible); or,</p> <p>2) If not able to maintain stable groups, only approximately 25% of the students in a high school can be in person at any one time.</p> <p>Students must maintain six feet of physical distancing and require face masks to be worn if six feet of distance is not possible.</p> <p>At all times, the maximum group size is consistent with State's reopening plan.</p>	<p>High schools can pick which of the following two requirements they follow:</p> <p>1) Stable groups (30 maximum) should be maintained whenever possible (i.e. student groups should stay the same and teachers rotate whenever possible); or,</p> <p>2) If not able to maintain stable groups, only approximately 50% of the students in a high school can be in person at any one time.</p> <p>Students must maintain six feet of physical distancing and require face masks to be worn if six feet of distance is not possible.</p> <p>At all times, the maximum group size is consistent with State's reopening plan.</p>	<p>Stable groups are highly recommended and should be maintained whenever possible (i.e. student groups should stay the same and teachers rotate whenever possible).</p> <p>When stable groups are not possible, students must maintain six feet of physical distancing and require face masks to be worn if six feet of distance is not possible.</p> <p>High school group size (i.e. class and other settings) should not exceed the maximum group size of the State.</p>



Non-classroom Settings	Same as partial in-person.	<p>Stable group should be maintained in all settings.</p> <p>Only one stable group should be in a space at any time.</p> <p>In high schools/settings without stable groups, capacity should not exceed social gathering limits, ensuring physical distancing.</p> <p>In large spaces (i.e. gyms, auditoriums, etc.), stable groups must be at least 14 feet from other stable groups. Individuals in any indoor space should not exceed the maximum State group size.</p> <p>Encourage activities outside whenever possible.</p>	<p>Stable group should be maintained in all settings.</p> <p>In high schools/settings without stable groups, capacity should not exceed social gathering limits, ensuring physical distancing.</p> <p>In large spaces (i.e. gymnasiums, auditoriums, etc.), stable groups must be at least 14 feet from other stable groups. Individuals in any indoor space should not exceed the maximum State group size.</p> <p>Encourage activities outside whenever possible.</p>
Staff	Same as full in-person.	Same as full in-person.	<p>Staff are expected to physically distance from each other unless they are a part of the same class/pod.</p> <p>Staff that are not assigned to a stable group should maintain six feet of physical distance whenever possible and should wear a face mask.</p>



## Classroom Layouts and Use of School Spaces

Section	Limited in-Person Learning	Partial In-Person Learning	Full In-Person Learning
General Spacing and Movement	Same as full in-person	Same as full in-person	<p>Stable groups are required to occupy consistent space as much as feasible (i.e., each stable group uses the same classroom for all classes).</p> <p>If any shared space is used, cleaning and disinfecting must happen between consistent stable groups.</p>
Classroom Layout	<p>High schools can pick which of the following two requirements they follow:</p> <p>1) Smaller stable groups (15 maximum) should be maintained whenever possible (i.e. student groups should stay the same and teachers rotate whenever possible); or,</p> <p>2) If not able to maintain stable groups, only approximately 25% of the students in a high school can be in-person at any one time.</p> <p>Students must maintain six feet of physical distancing and require face masks to be worn if six feet of distance is not possible.</p> <p>At all times, the maximum group size is consistent with State's reopening plan.</p>	<p>High schools can pick which of the following two requirements they follow:</p> <p>1) Stable groups (30 maximum) should be maintained whenever possible (i.e. student groups should stay the same and teachers rotate whenever possible); or,</p> <p>2) If not able to maintain stable groups, only approximately 25% of the students in a high school can be in-person at any one time.</p> <p>Students must maintain six feet of physical distancing and require face masks to be worn if six feet of distance is not possible.</p> <p>At all times, the maximum group size is consistent with State's reopening plan.</p>	<p>Stable groups are highly recommended and should be maintained whenever possible (i.e. students should stay the same and teachers rotate whenever possible).</p> <p>When stable groups are not possible, students must maintain six feet of physical distancing and require face masks to be worn if six feet of distance is not possible.</p> <p>High school group size (i.e. class and other settings) should not exceed the maximum group size of the State.</p>
Hallways	Same as full in-person	Same as full in-person	Plans must include how congestion in the hallways

			<p>and stairs will be minimized.</p> <p>Options could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Staggered timing for class transitions; and,</li> <li>- Signs in hallways to delineate one-way traffic.</li> </ul> <p>Plans should include a sample schedule that makes sure that that extra time to accommodate one-way traffic flow is included.</p>
Bathrooms	Same as full in-person	Same as full in-person.	<p>Bathrooms must be cleaned and disinfected frequently, in accordance with CDC guidance.</p> <p>When possible, stable groups should use the bathroom at the same time and bathrooms should be cleaned and disinfected in between groups. This is most important for younger grades.</p> <p>Encourage identifying specific bathrooms for specific stable groups to use (i.e. first floor bathroom is only for use of a specific set of classes... second floor for a different set... etc.).</p>
Dining: Elementary & Middle School	Same as full in-person	Same as full in-person	<p>Lunch must occur in the same consistent space that stable group is in (i.e. lunch in the classroom).</p> <p>Plans may propose an exception to the location of the lunch for stable groups to allow it to occur in a different space. If it occurs in a shared space:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cleaning and disinfection must occur in between stable groups in that space.</li> <li>- If multiple stable groups are in one, larger shared</li> </ul>

			space 14 feet of physical distance must be maintained between groups
Dining: High School	Same as full in-person	Same as full in-person	<p>The number of people in any room for lunch (e.g., the cafeteria) must never exceed the State gathering size.</p> <p>In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sit six feet apart when possible;</li> <li>- If multiple stable groups are in one, larger shared space 14 feet of physical distance must be maintained between groups; and,</li> <li>- Same groups should be having lunch at the same time.</li> </ul> <p>Whenever possible, encourage outdoor dining.</p>

## Cleaning Surfaces and School Areas

Section	Limited In-Person Learning	Partial In-Person Learning	Full In-Person Learning
Cleaning/ Disinfecting	Same as full in-person	Same as full in-person	<p>Based on CDC guidance</p> <p>For spaces that are shared, ensure cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces (ex: desks, chairs, doorknobs) between uses.</p> <p>For high school, cleaning and disinfecting of desks must happen between classes.</p>
Hygiene and Handwashing	Same as full in-person	Same as full in-person	<p>Plan must include provisions to ensure frequent handwashing, in accordance with CDC guidance.</p>

## Face Coverings

Section	Limited in-Person Learning	Partial In-Person Learning	Full In-Person Learning
Face Coverings (Overall)	Same as full in-person	Same as full in-person.	<p>It is recommended that face coverings be worn by students, when possible, even in stable group settings.</p> <p>Face coverings are recommended, but are not required, in settings where people can easily and continuously maintain at least six feet of distance from other people.</p> <p>Children must not face a penalty for not wearing a mask.</p> <p>Staff are required to wear masks with the exception of staff that are with a consistent stable group.</p> <p>For high school, masks should be worn whenever six feet of physical distance cannot be guaranteed.</p> <p>Schools should acquire additional masks for students and/or staff who may forget not have their own.</p>
Facing Coverings for Differently-abled Student Classrooms	Same as full in-person	Same as full in-person	Schools will need extra masks/face shields for differently-abled student classrooms where students require direct staff support.

## Screening Students and Staff

Section	Limited in-Person Learning	Partial In-Person Learning	Full In-Person Learning
Screening	Same as full in-person	Same as full in-person	Parents to screen children at home (using Crush COVID RI app or a self-attestation form), and keep child at home if child fails screening.

			<p>Randomized verbal screening/temperature checks are required upon entrance/throughout the day for children (used if positive case or many symptomatic kids).</p> <p>Staff are required to be screened before entering the school or self-assessment through app if in-person screening is not possible.</p>
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## School Schedules

Section	Limited in-Person Learning	Partial In-Person Learning	Full In-Person Learning
Overall Student Schedules	<p>Plans should address issues of scheduling.</p> <p>For older students who do not maintain stable groups, options could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Alternative days or weeks in person;</li> <li>- Having specific grades come back in person while others remain distant; and/or</li> <li>- Have one group come in the morning and separate group in the afternoon, with cleaning and disinfecting in-between.</li> </ul> <p>Plans are required to include a sample schedule for all different age groups and settings, including how time will be incorporated for changing between classes.</p>	<p>Plans should address issues of scheduling.</p> <p>For older students who do not maintain stable groups, options could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Alternative days or weeks in person;</li> <li>- Having specific grades come back in person while others remain distant; and/or</li> <li>- Have one group come in the morning and separate group in the afternoon, with cleaning and disinfecting in-between.</li> </ul> <p>Plans are required to submit a sample schedule for all different age groups and settings, including how time will incorporate time for changing between classes.</p>	<p>Plans should address issues of scheduling.</p> <p>Scheduling should consider drop off, pick up, lunch, and other physical distancing protocols.</p> <p>Plans are required to submit a sample schedule for all different age groups and settings, including how time will be incorporated for changing between classes.</p>
Pick up/Drop off	Same as full in-person	Same as full in-person.	Plans need to include procedures for drop off and

			<p>pick up that are consistent with CDC guidelines.</p> <p>Plans must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stable groups remaining consistent and 14 feet from other groups; and,</li> <li>- Physical distancing between nonstable groups.</li> </ul>
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## School Visitors

Section	Limited in-Person Learning	Partial In-Person Learning	Full In-Person Learning
Visitors	No visitors, whenever possible, beyond pick up and drop off.	No visitors, whenever possible, beyond pick up and drop off.	Maintain a visitor log for at least 30 days, documenting the name, contact phone number, and arrival/departure time of each individual.

## Busing and Transportation

Section	Limited in-Person Learning	Partial In-Person Learning	Full In-Person Learning
Busing and Transportation	Follow CDC guidance regarding bus transportation, including one student per seat, every other seat.	<p>Same mitigation tactics as full in-person option with reduced overall capacity (no more than 24 students on a bus)</p> <p>Schools should take extra precautions to help make sure these protocols are properly followed (ex. bus monitor or visual markings on the seats where students should sit, a poster on the bus that reminds students of the rules, etc.).</p>	<p>Requiring all students on busses to wear masks (with the exception of children younger than age two or anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bus pod to act as its own “stable group;”</li> <li>- One student per seat unless from same household (i.e. siblings should sit together);</li> </ul> <p>Use hand sanitizer before and after;</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Students should have assigned seats, and be on the same bus going to and from school;</li> <li>- Bus monitors should be encouraged on every bus to monitor behavior (ex: ensuring facing right way, screen students when they get on, and have students be as physically distant as possible);</li> <li>- All windows open when possible;</li> <li>- Same group of students on the bus every day;</li> <li>- Same bus dropping-off and picking-up;</li> <li>- Stable staffing when possible; and,</li> <li>- Plans should include specific considerations for differently-abled students (when transportation is on a student's IEP).</li> </ul>
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## School Specific Activities

Section	Limited in-Person Learning	Partial In-Person Learning	Full In-Person Learning
Recess	Same as full in-person	Same as full in-person	Stable groups must be consistent during recess. Handwashing should happen before and after recess.
Field Trips	Same as full in-person	Same as full in-person	Planning field trips is not recommended at this time, consistent with CDC guidance. This could change as we learn more during the summer and throughout the year. Virtual field trips are encouraged.
Athletics	Same as full in-person	Same as full in-person	Further guidance on fall athletics will be provided

			during the summer months. For the most current guidance, please reopeningri.com
Band and Chorus	Same as full in-person	Same as full in-person	<p>It is recommended that activities such as chorus and any group band rehearsal or performance be suspended or done virtually.</p> <p>If schools choose for it to happen in-person, students and staff should be at least 14 feet apart.</p> <p>Chorus or band size should not be greater than the stable group size.</p> <p>It is recommended that these activities be done virtually.</p>
Before and After School	Before and after school programing can only happen if maintaining physical distancing protocols or same stable group.	Before and after school programing can only happen if maintaining physical distancing protocols or same stable group.	<p>Plans need to include how schools and districts will address before and after school programming. Recommendations include ensuring physical distancing for older students and for younger groups, ensuring they are in the same group for all activities (I.e. try to have kids in groups during this time that is consistent with their class or bus grouping).</p> <p>Mask wearing encouraged if not stable group</p>

## Supporting Vulnerable Groups in Returning to In-Person Activities

Section	Limited in-Person Learning	Partial In-Person Learning	Full In-Person Learning
Educationally Vulnerable Students	Same as full in-person	Same as full in-person	Plans should include how schools will ensure additional supports for educationally vulnerable students.



Medically Vulnerable Students and Staff	Same as full in-person	Same as full in-person	Plans should include how schools will ensure additional supports for medically vulnerable populations.
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## PPE for School Nurses

Section	Limited in-Person Learning	Partial In-Person Learning	Full In-Person Learning
PPE for School Nurses	Same as full in-person	Same as full in-person	<p>Equip school nurses with the same PPE recommended for any healthcare provider who is in close contact with patients suspected to have COVID-19, in accordance with CDC guidance which may be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>The ideal PPE is an N-95 respirator, face mask, face shield, eye protection, gloves, and gown.</p> <p>If an N-95 respirator is not available, use a face mask (i.e. surgical mask).</p> <p>Due to the shortage of gowns nationwide, some innovative substitution may be necessary (i.e. lab coats).</p> <p>It is also important to conserve PPE when it is in short supply. Please see this <a href="#">guidance document</a> for recommendations on PPE conservation.</p>

## Responding to Staff or Students who are Ill

Section	Limited in-Person Learning	Partial In-Person Learning	Full In-Person Learning
Response to Ill Student	Same as full in-person	Same as full in-person	Any student experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 ( <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html</a> )

			<p>before the school day begins should stay home. If a student develops symptoms of COVID-19 at school, the student should be taken to the school nurse and the isolation room immediately.</p> <p>Parents/guardians should be notified to pick up the student within the hour. Parents/guardians should seek medical advice for the student within 48 hours and schedule a COVID-19 test as needed.</p> <p>As soon as possible, remove, clean, and sanitize any items touched by symptomatic student. Clean and disinfect any common surfaces which can't be moved, and if feasible, increase ventilation in room.</p>
Response to Ill Staff Member	Same as full in-person	Same as full in-person	<p>Anyone who feels ill before the school day begins should stay home.</p> <p>If staff develop COVID-19 symptoms while at school, they should go home immediately, seek medical advice within 48 hours, and get a COVID-19 test. Staff should notify school administrator of the COVID-19 test result as soon as possible.</p> <p>As soon as possible, remove, clean, and sanitize any items touched by symptomatic student. Clean and disinfect any common surfaces which can't be moved, and if feasible, increase ventilation in room.</p>