

# SCHOOLS & EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

The purpose of this document is to provide clear and actionable guidance for safe operations through the prevention, early detection and control of COVID-19 in schools and other educational facilities. Maintaining safe school operations or reopening schools after a closure requires many considerations but, if done well, can promote public health. Following basic principles can help keep teachers, students and allied staff (security, administration, food handlers, etc.) safe at school and educational facilities and help stop the spread of COVID-19.

There must be adequate school resources and infrastructure to maintain COVID-19 prevention and control strategies

Understanding age-related needs and capacities to adapt to changes and provide necessary support

Understanding safety and security implications and to address both employee and student vulnerabilities

## Recommended Control Measures

### Hygiene and environmental measures to limit exposure

- Respiratory hygiene, frequent hand hygiene, non-contact greetings
- Use paper towels for drying hands and avoid shared hand towels
- Policy on wearing a mask or a face covering in line with national guidance
- Frequent cleaning (using registered products) of the school and dormitory environments, including ablution facilities and frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, desks, toys, lunch tables, learning aids
- Ensure occupied spaces are well ventilated (e.g. open windows & doors)

### Screening and management of sick students, teachers and other school staff

- "Stay at home if unwell" policy for teachers, allied staff and students
- Daily screening (e.g. temperature taking) and access control program of teachers, allied staff, students and visitors (e.g. parents, contractors) on arrival
- COVID-19 self-declaration for entry
- Suspend reward systems for learners for full attendance to discourage sick learners from going to school

### Ensure regular, transparent communication with parents and students

- Reinforce that caregivers alert the school and health authorities if someone in their home has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and keep their child at home
- Include training on the implemented controls, recognizing COVID-19 related symptoms, and the use, maintenance and disposal of facemasks

### Physical distancing at school

- Maintain at least 1.5m between everyone at school (e.g. desk spacing, limit mixing of classes, move classes outdoors where possible)
- Maintain physical distancing in dormitories, dining and other common areas
- Consider mass gatherings or activities (e.g. sports) based on a risk assessment
- Modify timetables and stagger breaks or consider rotations

### Tele-schooling and distance learning

- Where possible, initiate or continue tele-schooling using blended methods
- Avoid penalizing students in difficult learning environments

### Vaccination

- Promote vaccination uptake in persons meeting the age criteria

## Establish procedures if students or staff become unwell

Plan with local health authorities, school health staff and update emergency contact lists

Implement procedures and capacities to isolate ill students and staff without creating stigma

Monitor the effects on health and well-being of staff and students

Procedure for contact tracing when a student or staff becomes COVID 19 positive

## Support vulnerable populations

- Assess the vulnerabilities of staff and students
- Consider staff and students with co-morbidities and plan alternative working & learning arrangements
- Work with social service systems to ensure continuity of critical services such as health screenings, feeding programs or therapies for children with special needs
- Consider the specific needs of children with disabilities and access to hand washing or social distancing measures
- Consider how marginalized populations may be more acutely impacted by the illness or its secondary effects



COVID-19 Workplace Preparedness & Prevention  
HEALTHY, SAFE & SUSTAINABLE WORKPLACES

Workplace Hotline: 0800 2121 75

Occupational Health Surveillance System [OHSS]

General queries for data submission: 0723215503 | 0713981169 | OHSWorkplace@nioh.ac.za

www.nioh.ac.za

info@nioh.ac.za

twitter: @nioh\_sa

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