



Changes and Updates

COVID-19 Guidance for Georgia K-12 Schools and School-Based Programs

This document is designed to help you keep track of the significant, ongoing changes and new available supports for K-12 schools and school-based programs across Georgia.

Key Changes – 6/2/2021

Main document

- Added information on COVID-19 vaccination, including links to the DPH COVID-19 vaccine webpage and CDC COVID-19 vaccine webpages for children and teens and teachers and staff (page 5)
- Updated recommendations for physical distancing in classrooms (page 5)
- Removed the recommendation for plexiglass barriers at reception desks
- Added information on diagnostic and screening testing in schools (page 9)
- Changed the recommendations for daily symptom screening at school and implementation of parent/guardian attestation to home-based symptom screening (page 10)
- Removed the statement about universal viral testing and unknown protection against reinfection following recovery from COVID-10
- Clarified language regarding fully vaccinated individuals not needing to quarantine if identified as a close contact (pages 11 and 13)
- Added a link for CDC recommendations on ventilation in school and childcare programs (page 19)
- Changed the recommendation for masks on school buses to a requirement, per federal order (page 19)
- Removed the recommendation for daily health screening
- Changed “social distancing” to “physical distancing” throughout the document
- Changed “cloth face covering” to “mask” throughout the document
- Removed pictures to accommodate edits to the document

Appendices

- Removed the “Symptom screening checklist: Elementary School Students”
- Removed the “Symptom screening checklist: Middle and High School Students, Persons Entering the Building”

- Removed the “K-12 Schools symptom screening: Parent/Guardian Attestation”
- Updated the symptom checklist to one list of all the symptoms (page 25)

DPH/CDC Resources and Supports

[Toolkit for People 15 to 17](#) – Updated 01/14/2021

[Toolkit for People 18 to 24](#) – Updated 01/14/2021

[Toolkit for Youth Sports](#) – Updated 01/14/2021

[Toolkit for K-12 Schools](#) – Updated 01/14/2021

[School Decision-Making Tool for Parents, Caregivers, and Guardians](#) – Updated 01/19/2021

[Contact Tracing](#) – Updated 02/25/2021

[Schools and Childcare Programs](#) – Updated 04/27/2021

[Strategies for Protecting K-12 School Staff from COVID-19](#) – Updated 04/23/2021

[Resources for Teachers and Staff](#) – Updated 05/13/2021

[DPH Return to Child Care, School, or Institutions of Higher Education \(IHE\) Guidance After COVID-19 Illness or Exposure](#) – Updated 03/24/2021

Key Changes - 12/29/2020

Main document

- Clarified language regarding the definition of a close contact (pages 7, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, and Appendices)
- Expanded the list of vulnerable populations (page 9)
- Updated quarantine guidance for close contacts (pages 14, 15, 16, 17, 18)
- Added links to the electronic COVID-19 Case and Cluster School Reporting form (page 22)
- Updated document with grammatical and wording changes

Appendices

- Updated the school notification letters in the Appendices to reflect updated CDC and DPH quarantine guidance
- Updated the symptoms on the “Symptom Screening Checklist” – reflects screening students, teachers, and staff to assess whether they have ONE of the following symptoms (fever or chills, new cough, new loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing) or TWO of the following symptoms (sore throat, diarrhea, fatigue, new nasal congestion/stuffy or runny nose, nausea, muscle or body aches, new severe/very bad headache, vomiting, chills)
- Updated the symptoms on the Parent/Guardian Attestation (see above for symptoms added)
- Updated the symptoms on the “Returning to School Amid COVID-19 Pandemic” (see above for symptoms added)

DPH/CDC Resources and Supports

[Toolkit for People 15 to 17](#) – Updated 01/06/2021

[Toolkit for People 18 to 24](#) – Updated 01/06/2021

[Toolkit for Youth Sports](#) – Updated 01/06/2021

[Toolkit for K-12 Schools](#) – Updated 01/06/2021

[School Decision-Making Tool for Parents, Caregivers, and Guardians](#) – Updated 01/05/2021

[Contact Tracing](#) – Updated 01/05/2021

[Schools and Childcare Programs](#) – Updated 01/05/2021

[Strategies for Protecting K-12 School Staff from COVID-19](#) – Updated 01/04/2021

[Resources for Teachers and Staff](#) – Updated 12/31/2020

[DPH Return to Child Care, School, or Institutions of Higher Education \(IHE\) Guidance After COVID-19 Illness or Exposure](#) – Updated 12/10/2020