



## Considerations for Planning for Fall 2022

The purpose of this document is to provide general guidance and resources for administrators planning for the 2022-2023 school year.

### What should administrators be aware of while preparing for school reopening?

- **Community Levels:** COVID-19 [Community Levels](#) can help schools determine what prevention strategies to use based on if their community is classified as low, medium, or high. Masking, physical distancing, and testing are more important when community levels are elevated (medium or high levels).
- **Guidelines for when staff or students are exposed to or test positive for COVID-19:**
  - » Those who tested positive or have symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home and isolate ([How to Isolate if COVID-19 Positive](#)).
  - » Those who were exposed to COVID-19 do not need to quarantine, but should take precautions: wear a mask, monitor for symptoms, and get tested at least 5 days after exposure ([What to Do If You Were Exposed to COVID-19](#)).
- **COVID-19 Testing:** Testing symptomatic students and staff can help schools mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The role of testing is elevated for medium and high community risk levels. **If your school is experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak**, please contact your local health department (LHD). Tests may be available either from your LHD, or the CDC, or the [Midwest Coordination Center](#).
- **Ventilation:** Improving ventilation and air exchange can reduce exposure to multiple droplet and airborne threats. See: [Ventilation in Schools and Childcare Programs](#).
  - » **Free ventilation supplies:** HEPA filter machines, replacement filters for HEPA machines, and filters for existing HVAC systems are available for Nebraska schools to order through the [School Reopening Supply Order Form](#).
- **Vaccination:** COVID-19 vaccines are available to everyone 6 months of age and older, and children 5 and older are eligible for and encouraged to get boosters. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely conduct in-person learning.
  - » [Max the Vax](#) is a resource to encourage parents to vaccinate their children against COVID-19 featuring videos from Nebraska healthcare providers and information in multiple languages.
  - » The [Fruitful](#) campaign provides tools for schools to send positive and factual messages to students and families about the benefits of getting the COVID-19 vaccine.

### Should we expect the same brief disruptions with spikes in cases?

- We cannot predict what will happen in terms of COVID-19 transmission, but there will be cases, and schools should be prepared for possible disruptions.

### For further information:

- CDC: [Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools to Support Safe In-Person Learning](#)
- DHHS: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- U.S. Dept of Education: [COVID-19 Resources for Schools, Students, and Families](#)