

COVID-19 Safety Tips for the Education Industry

According to the [Centers for Disease Control](#), the best way to prevent illness as a result of COVID-19 is to avoid exposure to the virus, which is thought to spread mainly from person to person, between people who are in close contact (within about six feet). The virus is transmitted through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or speaks, which can land in the mouths or noses or possibly get inhaled into the lungs of people nearby. To minimize the potential spread of COVID-19 in the workplace, rely on information provided by credible sources, such as the [CDC](#) and [OSHA](#) websites.

Symptoms may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure and can include:



FEVER



COUGH



SHORTNESS OF BREATH



You can use the CDC's self-check to help you determine if you need medical care.

OTHER RESOURCES:

[UNICEF - Framework for Reopening Schools](#)

[CDC - Guidance for Schools](#)

[COVID-19 video by Vox](#)

[CDC - How to Protect Yourself and Others](#)

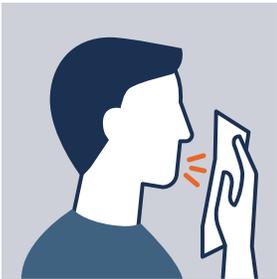
[EPA list of chemicals to use against COVID-19](#)

How to Stay Protected at Educational Facilities



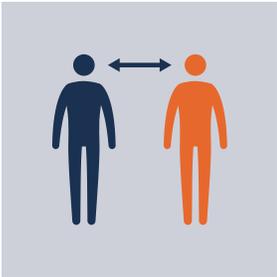
Wash your hands often

- Encourage everyone to wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Maintain general hygiene guidance as outlined by the CDC.



Cover coughs and sneezes

- Have tissues available in common areas.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash, or cough/sneeze into your elbow.
- Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



Social/physical distancing

- Stay at least six feet away from other people.
- Minimize group gatherings and limit their size to adhere to local regulations.
- Mark areas where lines may form to encourage proper social distancing (at least six feet).



Cloth face cover/mask

- When in public, cover your mouth and nose with a cloth cover or mask.
- The cloth face cover is meant to protect you and others in case anyone is infected.
- Sanitize the cloth cover/mask at least daily, if not after each use.



Keep common areas clean

- Employees and students should clean work surfaces prior to beginning work or class.
- Minimize gatherings in common areas and set a limit to personnel allowed in a location at one time.
- Disinfect elevators and other high traffic areas and limit occupants.
- High-touch areas (keypads, elevator buttons, drinking fountains, etc.) should be disinfected every hour.
- Many common household cleaners can be used to fight COVID-19. [Click here for a list of EPA-approved cleaners.](#)



Guidelines to Stay Healthy During the COVID-19 Pandemic

General precautions for faculty, staff, and students

The guidelines below outline basic ways to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. The situation is fluid and new information is available daily. Please consult your local agencies for specific guidelines and any changes.

- Any faculty or staff member, student, or visitor who is sick or showing COVID-19 symptoms should not enter campus, stay home, and contact their medical provider.
- Offer remote learning and evaluate telecommuting options and social activity. For individuals who must be physically present, consider rotating shifts or staggering schedules.
- Redesign classrooms, libraries, cafeterias, and work areas to incorporate at least six feet between people to practice social distancing. Use plexiglass or other barriers where people must face each other or are unable to maintain a distance of at least six feet.
- Avoid sharing objects (tools, books, computers, knobs) and disinfect shared items frequently.
- Campus residents should regularly launder bedding and clothing.
- Consider designating entryways and exits where symptom screenings may be implemented.
- Place appropriate signage at entrances indicating how to proceed. Post maximum occupancy of spaces.
- Arrange chairs and desks to ensure proper physical distancing.
- Provide sanitizing supplies and stations. Use no-touch or single-use items. Remove high-touch items.
- Wear face cloth coverings/masks any time that social distancing is difficult to maintain, such as public places and during interactions with customers.
- Wash or sanitize hands regularly. Post reminders to remind people to avoid touching their faces.
- If gatherings are vital, organize them outside with proper social distancing guidelines.
- Practice healthy habits: get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of water and eat nutritious foods.
- Avoid hand-to-hand money exchanges and encourage touchless pay options, when possible.