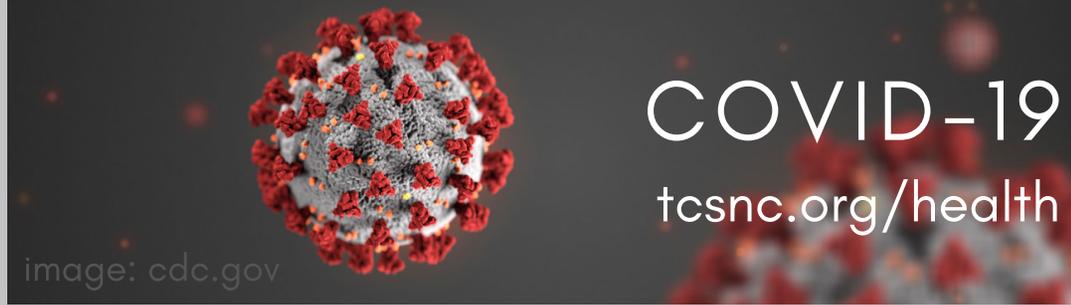
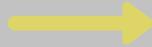


TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY SCHOOLS INFECTIOUS DISEASE PLANNING (CORONAVIRUS, PANDEMIC)



MITIGATION



PREPARATION



RESPONSE



RECOVERY

- Disseminate messages about hygiene by using posters and flyers to outline recommended procedures for staff, students, and parents to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.
- If the local pandemic situation does not yet warrant school closures, school professionals may decide to implement school-based social distancing measures. It will be important to communicate their plans to school staff, parents, and students. Schools can also help slow the spread of pandemic flu by taking **the actions below**.
- Review management policies and procedures including emergency operations plans and personnel policies that will be affected if there are extended school closures. Conduct training for nurses, teachers, administrative staff, and food service about infectious diseases; how to prevent and control outbreaks.

- Formalize collaboration and coordination of resources with the local health department, health facilities, and emergency management;
- Review county response plans to avoid unnecessary duplication of services;
- In case of lengthy outbreaks and extended absences, consider alternate school calendars, Web-based instruction, or other methods to ensure continuity of instruction;
- Communicate with school staff the personnel policies regarding employee compensation and sick leave;
- Formulate plans regarding the continuation of school operations and instructional programs with a possible significant percent reduction in workforce. (Staff, teachers, custodians, cafeteria workers, administrators, and bus drivers need to be considered.)

- Activate response plans.
- Sanitize objects which are commonly touched by staff and students.
- Follow procedures to isolate or send students and staff home, and ensure the availability of sanitation supplies.
- Deliver timely and honest communication about the actions of schools and school districts to preserve the safety and health of faculty, staff, students, and their families.
- Track absenteeism to determine the course of action.
- Keep the Child Nutrition Department apprised of the possibility of having to utilize their services for community feedings
- Collaboratively consult with the local Department of Public Health to receive up-to-date information and to make decisions accordingly.
- The Transylvania County Department of Public Health, the Transylvania County School Superintendent, and the Transylvania County Board of Education will determine the closure of schools based on the best practices and recommendations from appropriate agencies.
- Elevated school absenteeism rates at a specific school or school district (or neighboring school or school district).
- Providing distance-learning courses to students.

- Consider a potential disinfection consistent and ongoing process at the school depending on the severity and duration of the pandemic.
- Provide additional instruction and reinforce behavior expectations as needed to assist students in readjusting to classrooms-based learning.
- Address issues of grief and loss as well as other mental health needs of students and staff as necessary.
- By enhancing crisis management and response plans in conjunction with leadership from various local, state, and national agencies, schools will help keep more young people healthy during a pandemic.
- By following these guidelines and conducting tabletop drills to discuss a simulated pandemic and the response procedures, schools will glean valuable insights about their level of preparedness.

MITIGATION STRATEGIES

- seating students farther apart.
- dividing classes into smaller groups.
- moving classes to larger spaces.
- holding classes outdoors.
- canceling gym classes and classes that bring students together from multiple classrooms
- postponing class trips until after the pandemic.
- discouraging the use of school buses and public transit.
- promoting social distancing, especially for children and teens, on different media channels such as television or social media.
- transitioning to half-day school schedules (i.e., having half of the students come for morning classes and a half for afternoon classes), because having fewer students in a classroom at a given time allows for more space and less contact between children.
- canceling after-school and extra-curricular group activities. advising parents to limit their children's social activities outside of school.