

K-12 SCHOOLS GUIDANCE

Utah Leads Together

For more information, visit: coronavirus.utah.gov/utahs-health-guidance-system/

As the community moves through phased risk guidance, we encourage you to continue to implement protective measures for your health and safety, and that of your family, school, and the community. Together we can slow the spread of COVID-19.

K-12 SCHOOLS PHASED GUIDELINES

In accordance with the Utah Leads Together [Phased Guidelines](#) for the General Public and Businesses to Maximize Public Health and Economic Reactivation:

- Public schools are open
- Local education agencies (school districts and charter schools also known as LEAs) will develop plans for reopening schools for in-person instruction
- Plans must be approved by the local school board or charter school governing board
- Plans must address the elements and minimum requirements contained in the Utah State Board of Education's (USBE) [Planning Requirements and Recommendations for K-12 School Openings](#) document
- In order to comply with the Utah High School Activities Association's Return to Play Protocol: General Advisement and Sport-by-Sport Specifics, refer to <https://uhsaa.org/news/uploads/UHSAA%20Return%20to%20Play%20Document.pdf>
- See the Utah State Board of Education School Reopening Planning Handbook for descriptions of higher-risk activities and tools and resources; the Handbook is located at <https://schools.utah.gov/file/5997f53e-85ca-4186-83fe-932385ea760a>

SCHOOL MASK ORDER

In accordance with the [Public Health Order](#) issued on July 17, 2020 and updated on August 14, 2020 by the Utah Department of Health:

- Each individual on school property or on a school bus shall wear a face mask
- Spectators at school-sponsored activities or events must wear a face mask
- Students, employees, and visitors are not required to wear face coverings when:
 - Individuals are outdoors and can stay 6 feet away from others
 - Individuals are less likely to be exposed to COVID-19 when they are outdoors. However, there is still a risk of exposure if people are in close contact. To reduce this risk when individuals are not required to wear face coverings, schools should try to keep the same groups of students together as much as possible (cohorts), practice physical distancing as much as possible, and have students and employees wash their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds before and after recess. If soap and water are not available, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol may be used.

- Individuals are eating or drinking and can stay 6 feet away from others
- Individuals who are younger than 3 years of age
- Individuals have a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents him or her from wearing a face covering
- Individuals who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without help
- Seeing a person's mouth is essential for communication such as for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing or when students and teachers are in speech therapy
- Individuals who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 accommodation that would exempt him or her wearing a face covering
- A face covering must be temporarily removed to provide or receive a service involving the person's nose or face, such as speech therapy
- Individuals are participating in a school-sponsored activity or physical education class and are unable to reasonably participate while wearing a mask
 - Check each participant in school sponsored activities for symptoms before participating
 - Ask participants if they have been in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 2 weeks (14 days)
 - Take participants' temperature if you can
 - [Appendix C: Face Covering Exceptions in K-12](#) outlines student exemptions for individuals participating in a school sponsored activity or physical education class
- Exceptions to the public health order requiring face coverings for K-12 may be changed based on the spread of the virus in the community
- The order shall remain in effect until 11:59 pm December 31, 2020 unless otherwise modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded

PLANNING REQUIREMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS, USBE

In accordance with the Utah State Board of Education's (USBE) [Planning Requirements and Recommendations for K-12 School Openings](#):

- Local education agencies (LEAs) are required to develop comprehensive reopening plans that are approved by the local school board or charter school governing board in an open and public meeting and made available to the public on the local education agency's and each schools' websites by **August 1, 2020**
- Plans must address the following elements:
 - Repopulating Schools
 - Communication and Training
 - Accommodating Individual Circumstances (e.g. high-risk, personal decisions)
 - Enhanced Environment Hygiene & Safety
 - School Schedules
 - Implementation of Mitigation Actions in School Settings (e.g., Classrooms, Transitions, Office Spaces, Transportation, Restrooms, Cafeterias)
 - Apply a set of principles and levers to mitigate risk of spread of COVID-19 across school settings
 - Monitoring for Incidences
 - Containing Potential Outbreaks
 - Temporarily Reclosing (if necessary)

- Minimum requirements that plans developed by LEAs must address were determined to be in the best interest of Utah's students and faculty to create a consistent, state-wide standard of expectation; recommendations provide considerations to guide local planning efforts and may be adapted to fit the unique circumstances of each LEA, school, and individual classroom

UTAH COVID-19 SCHOOL MANUAL

A resource for school administration, teachers, and parents to help with decisions about how to respond to COVID-19 in schools to protect both the immediate and long-term health and safety of students, teachers, and employees

- The two most important things people in schools need to know are covered:
 1. What to do if a student, teacher, or employee is exposed to COVID-19 or tests positive
 2. How to make a healthy learning environment and protect schools
- Link to manual:
https://coronavirus-download.utah.gov/School/COVID-19_School_Manual_FINAL.pdf

TOOLKIT FOR K-12 SCHOOLS, CDC

- Review guidance and tools to help school administrators make decisions, protect their students and staff, and communicate with their community; One-Stop Shop Toolkit:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/toolkits/schools.html>

Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this COVID-19 pandemic.
Feel free to contact the Davis County Health Department with any questions at 801-525-5128.