

UPDATE:
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Covid-19

Coronavirus / COVID-19
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**School Reopening Guidance and the
FFCRA: Key Takeaways**

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Today's Topics

- CDC K-12 Operational Strategy and ED COVID-19 Handbook
 - Does It Matter
 - Summary of Guidance
- FFCRA Tax Credit Developments



CDC Operational Strategy

“This operational strategy presents recommendations based on the best-available evidence at the time of release . . . This operational strategy presents a pathway to reopen schools and help them remain open through the consistent use of mitigations strategies, especially universal and correct use of masks and physical distancing.”

ED COVID-19 Handbook – Volume 1

“This is the first volume in the U.S. Department of Education COVID-19 Handbook, a series intended to support the educational community as schools reopen. The series will provide tools to aid educators in implementing the CDC Operational Strategy.... This volume does not have force or effect of law and is not binding in any way (except where statutory or regulatory requirements are referenced).

Interaction with Michigan's Existing Administrative Orders

- MDHHS Order
 - Requires COVID-19 Preparedness & Response Plan that is “consistent with current guidance from CDC”
 - Procedures for disinfection must be consistent with CDC guidance if suspected/confirmed that employee, visitor or customer has known case of COVID
 - Must follow current CDC/OHSA guidance for personal protection equipment
- MDHHS Order
 - CDC Guidance “should be adhered to” for athletics
 - 2/7/2021 Interim Guidance for Athletics

K-12 Operational Strategy Summary

- Essential Elements for Safe In-Person Instruction
 - Layered Mitigation Strategies
 - Monitoring Community Transmission
 - Phased Mitigation
- Additional Strategies
- Equity Considerations



Essential Elements: Layered Mitigation Strategies

- **“Universal and correct” use of masks**
- **Physical distancing**
- Handwashing/respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning/maintaining healthy facilities
- Contact tracing, quarantine, and isolation in collaboration with the health department

Essential Elements: Monitoring Community Transmission

- CDC recommends the use of two measures to assess risk level for in-person instruction:
 - Total number of new cases per 100,000 persons in the past seven days
 - Percentage of positive tests in the past seven days
- Administrators should work with the local health department to gather this information

Essential Elements: Community Transmission

- Community Data = In Person Learning Approaches
 - **Blue (Low):** K-12 full in person, with mitigation, including 6 feet distancing “to the greatest extent possible.” Extracurriculars are on!
 - **Yellow (Moderate):** K-12 full in-person, with mitigation, including 6 feet distancing “to the greatest extent possible.” *Extracurriculars only if 6 feet distancing can be maintained*
 - **Orange (Substantial):** K-12 hybrid/reduced, with mitigation, including 6 feet distancing. *Extracurriculars only outdoors with 6 feet distancing.*
 - **Red (High):** With screening, K-12 hybrid/reduced, with strict mitigation. Without screening, K-5 hybrid/reduced. MS/HS remote, unless strict adherence to mitigation and few cases. *No extracurriculars.*

Essential Elements: Phased Mitigation

- In-person school should be last to close, first to open
- Elementary schools can continue in-person at higher levels of community transmission than middle/high schools
- Schools with at-risk populations should prioritize those populations
- Students with health risks, or who live with those with health risks, should be permitted to attend virtually
- Consider pods/cohorts when community transmission is high

Additional Strategies

- Testing
 - Offer referrals for those who exhibit symptoms
 - If offering tests, make voluntary for students and staff
 - Prioritize staff, then middle/high schools students, then elementary students
 - There are also other strings attached
- Vaccination
 - School staff prioritized, but must continue to follow mitigation strategies even after vaccination

FFCRA Tax Credit Developments

- February 8: Ways and Means Committee released its proposal for COVID-19 relief legislation
 - Still needs House and Senate approval
- If passed, will extend FFCRA tax credits from March 31 to September 30, 2021
- Resets paid sick leave days to 10 for credit purposes
- Credits will be available for state and local governments, as well as tax-exempt federal instrumentalities
- **Not** retroactive

Questions



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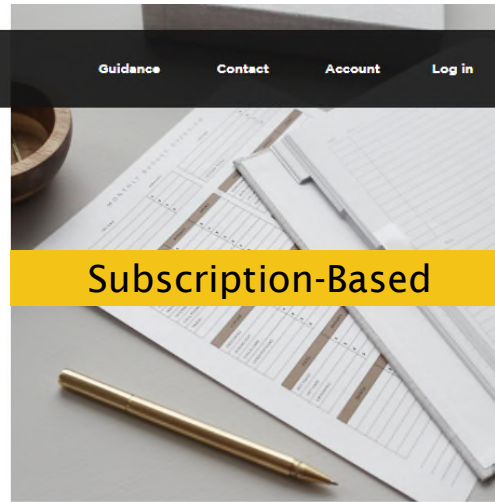
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