

# Schools and Childcare Programs

## Checklist for Parents

### Parents: Get Your Children Ready for Coronavirus Disease 2019

You can help protect your family from COVID-19 by practicing and promoting everyday healthy habits. If an outbreak occurs in your community, your school may dismiss students to prevent further spread of the virus. Use this checklist to plan and take action if a COVID-19 outbreak occurs in your community.

### PLAN AND PREPARE

#### Practice and reinforce good prevention habits with your family.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

#### Keep your child at home if sick with any illness.

If your child is sick, keep them at home and contact your healthcare provider. Talk with teachers about classroom assignments and activities they can do from home to keep up with their schoolwork.

#### Be prepared if your child's school or childcare facility is temporarily dismissed.

Talk with your employer about sick leave and telework options in case you need to stay home with your child. Consider planning for alternate childcare arrangements.

### IF YOUR SCHOOL/CHILDCARE PROGRAM IS DISMISSED

#### Keep track of school dismissal updates.

Read or watch local media sources that report school dismissals or stay in touch with your school.

#### Talk to your school about options for digital and distance learning.

#### Discourage children and teens from gathering in other public places while school is dismissed to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in the community.

#### Seek guidance from your school administrator to determine when students and staff should return to schools.

Duration of school dismissals will be made on a case-by-case basis based on the most up-to-date information about COVID-19 and the specific situation in your community. Students and staff should be prepared for durations that could last several days. Administrators should work with their local health authorities to determine duration of dismissals.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)