

Q&A

Back to School Practices in the New Normal – What Previous Pandemics Have Taught us Webinar May 12, 2020

1. Why is it that it is said that children are very contagious or transmitters? Would you recommend a specific manner to take the kids back?
2. So early years are still working online? Is anyone out there reopening for Early Years
3. What about students with complex special needs (i.e. Autism) wearing masks?
4. Have you used antibody testing for you staff?
5. When a student/teacher or staff develop any of the following symptoms of COVID-19 do you automatically require them to do 14 day quarantine? and ask for a medical clearance?
6. How to address the mental health issues originating out of this disruptive "new normal" and how the schools can help the teachers, parents and the students to remain courageous through this troubled time?
 - a. I believe that Sean will address this shortly.
7. What practices would enable successful reopening of schools for young children (in Kindergarten and early elementary grades) who of course do not recognize the need to avoid touching their own faces, and who do not remember to wash their hands or "socially distance"? Waiting for a vaccine is probably not possible?
 - a. I certainly suggest a gradual and staggered reopening to start.
 - b. thank you
8. What about room AC units?
 - a. We also have AQI issues to consider.
 - b. We have kept our AC on and windows open so there is a cooling effect and a positive pressure in the room. This keeps the outside pollution out in most cases. But, when AQI is too bad we would have to close windows.
 - c. Were parents worried about se
9. How many students per classroom?
 - a. We tried to keep the class size approximately the same as before we closed. We wanted it to be as normal as possible. It does depend on the size of the classroom itself and the possibility of sitting in a desk or space that is situated a safe distance from others. We are lucky that we had good sized rooms and a normal class size of max 22
 - b. How should we set the sitting arrangements of a class of 30 or 30+ students by keeping a safe distance
 - c. Rooms are not going to look like we really want as educators. We have a grid pattern of desks and students stay in their own seat and desk all day. With cleaning by sanitiser regularly we keep the desks safe, but the group work that we prefer is not able to be done in our rooms at the moment.
10. Should all after school activities and sports be suspended until the end of the year?
 - a. Anything that is likely to increase the chance of something going wrong really needs to be thought about carefully. We are not doing after school activities, but are looking at summer camps with some hope
 - b. Have you made a decision for next school year with regards to after school activities? These would include sports, productions (school plays) clubs etc. Thanks
 - c. Yes, we would particularly like to know how you have managed break times and PE lessons.
 - d. Break times have been strictly scheduled so that class groups take an area of the school playground or campus during the break. This keeps the classes separated so we can track and trace if anything happens. Sport is only done outside. We believed that we could do physical activity that was not going to compromise physical distancing inside, but the authorities said outside only. The PE staff are creative in games.
11. Is the Term SOCIAL distance not changing to PHYSICAL DISTANCING? WHO has claimed the big psychological difference for the terms

- a. Agreed, Lina. We want to promote maintaining and enhancing social connections while keeping our physical distance. Seems the misnomer has stuck in our lexicon however.
12. how to give a self confident for student face situation, after this covid 19 , since they all in lockdown, after this lockdown, how to make them stabilize their situation. how we have to feed confidence in them , is there any kind of ideas , can you share.
 - a. No easy answer, of course. Keeping your spirits up is what you have the most control over. As you know, kids sense our emotions.
 - b. thanks sir
13. My Pre-K students are tired of working at home, they are having hard time as I keep assuring them we will get back to school but we are not. What can I do to encourage them?
 - a. We tried to address some of these issues last week and the webinar is uploaded here with resources: <https://www.iss.edu/community/online-learning/webinar-engagement> Additionally, we have a webinar specifically on Early Years if that helps. That can be found here <https://www.iss.edu/community/online-learning/online-learning-transitions>
14. At my institution, lectures last for 3 hours, this is to meet certain government requirements for foreign students. Class size on an average of 70 students with an 8 week term. For F2F classes, What are your thoughts on shorter class times (90 minutes) and more classes, based on Physical Distancing?
15. Any possibility of extending the number of school days while shortening the classes? I certainly appreciate holding the attention of student in lecture environments for that length of time is more than challenging.