

# MOVING BETWEEN DIFFERENT LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS DURING THE OUTBREAK

Generally, school and district administrators should consider temporary classroom, school, or district wide closures or dismissals linked to cases in the school when:

- Other outbreak mitigation measures were implemented and ineffectual at halting outbreak transmission.
- Logistics of in-person instruction have been seriously impacted due to staff and/or student absences.
- Classroom or schoolwide cleaning and disinfection needs to be completed.
- Extensive contact tracing is needed to identify all contacts (for example, in response to a case that attended a large school event).

School and district administrators will work closely with their local health department to determine the least disruptive level of temporary closure or dismissal needed, or transition to virtual learning, to halt outbreak transmission. The scope of the temporary closure/dismissal should be limited to the smallest unit affected (for example, a cohort, a classroom). Instruction should continue through all virtual learning methods, and can resume in-person (but socially distanced) instruction as soon as safely feasible.

Local health departments use the following framework for decisions on moving between various learning environments. However, this is not an exhaustive list, and does not include all factors needing consideration in any given situation.

## CLASSROOMS & COHORTS

School administrators and public health officials should consider temporarily halting face-to-face instruction in an individual classroom or student cohort when:

- Individual classrooms need to be cleaned and disinfected and no additional rooms are available.
- Contact tracing is being conducted to identify close contacts and additional cases within the classroom/cohort especially when multiple cases need to be traced.
- Other outbreak mitigation measures were implemented, and were ineffectual at halting transmission between classmates.
- A teacher is absent, and a substitute teacher cannot be hired for the full length of the anticipated absence.

## INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS

School administrators and public health officials should consider temporarily halting face-to-face instruction in an individual school when:

- The number of absences among teachers or school staff is impeding student instruction, ability to provide student lunch, or other vital school functions.
- A greater number of classrooms or student cohorts are absent than present.
- Schoolwide cleaning and disinfection needs to be conducted.
- Contact tracing is being conducted to identify close contacts and additional cases from multiple classrooms/cohorts especially when multiple cases need to be traced.
- Other outbreak mitigation measures were implemented, and were ineffectual at halting transmission between classmates.

## SCHOOL DISTRICT

School administrators and public health officials should consider temporarily halting face-to-face instruction across a school district when:

- The local, county, state or the federal government recommend closure.
- The number of absences among school and district staff is impeding vital district functions.
- Contact tracing is being conducted to identify close contacts and additional cases from multiple schools (for example, in response to a large outbreak linked to a multi-school sporting event).
- Other outbreak mitigation measures were implemented, and were ineffectual at halting transmission at schools in the district.
- A greater number of students in the district are absent than present.