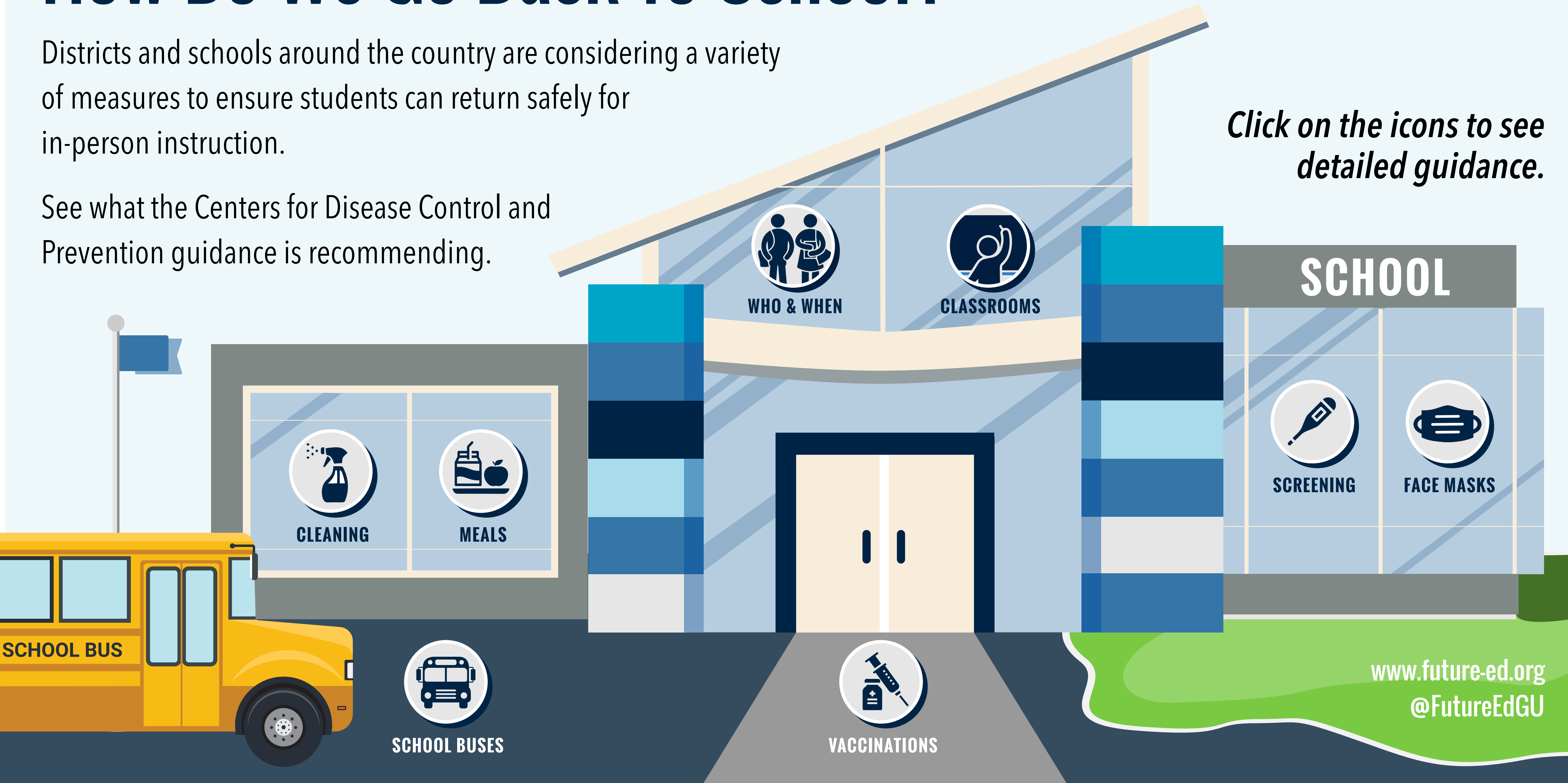


How Do We Go Back To School?

Districts and schools around the country are considering a variety of measures to ensure students can return safely for in-person instruction.

See what the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance is recommending.

Click on the icons to see detailed guidance.



CLEANING AND SANITIZING

Proper cleaning and sanitizing of schools can be critical for keeping students healthy and in the classroom.

Read what the CDC is advising:

U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Clean frequently touched surfaces — playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, toilets, drinking fountains — daily.

Disinfect after a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19.

Provide hand sanitizer when needed and store it safely. When children are 5 or younger, hand sanitizer should be used only with adult supervision.



CLEANING

SCHOOL BUSES

Social distancing has proven to be an effective measure on school buses when community transmission is high.

Read what the CDC is advising:

U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Lift the requirement for masks on buses.

If safe, open windows to improve air circulation.



SCHOOL BUSES

MEALS

At lunch time, students typically gather in a cafeteria, which could contribute to Covid's spread. Read what the CDC is advising :

U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Lift social distancing requirements for cafeterias; when transmission rates are high, use additional spaces outside of the cafeteria for mealtime seating such as the gymnasium or outdoor seating.

Clean frequently touched surfaces.

Promote hand washing.



MEALS

WHO GOES WHEN

The CDC guidance stresses the importance of having all students back in school. Read what the CDC is advising:

U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

End policy of keeping students in cohorts or pods.

Increase social distancing measures when community transmission rates are high.



WHO & WHEN

Sources: Dallas Independent School District, Little Rock School District, Jericho School District.

IN THE CLASSROOM

CDC guidance stresses the importance of good ventilation in the classroom to limit the spread of COVID.

Read what the CDC is advising:

U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Optimize classroom ventilation and maintain improvements to indoor air quality to reduce the risk of COVID spreading through the air.

When transmission rates rise, increase outdoor intake and improve filtration. That can include holding activities outside, opening classroom windows and doors, and using portable air cleaners with HEPA filters.



CLASSROOMS

SCREENING

Widespread screening of student and staff members is discouraged, but those testing positive should follow certain rules. Read what the CDC is advising:

U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Do not conduct regular screening, including test-to-stay policies, or require quarantines.

Schools can consider testing for special events, like dances or sporting events, or when community transmission rates are high.

If students or staff test positive for Covid, they should isolate and stay home for at least 5 days or until they are fever-free for at least 24-hours.

A negative test is not required to return to school, but those recovering should consider wearing a mask.

Schools should allow flexible, non-punitive, and supportive paid sick leave policies and practices for all staff members.



SCREENING

FACE MASKS

Face masks are another effective measure to avoid the spread of the disease. Read what the CDC is advising:

U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

End widespread mask requirements.

Require students and staff exposed to someone with COVID to wear a mask for 10 days, in school nurse's office and when community transmission rates are high.

Schools should make accommodations for students with disabilities and should develop "flexible, non-punitive policies and practices" for those who choose to wear masks.



FACE MASKS

VACCINATIONS

The CDC guidance declares that vaccination is “the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic” and encourages schools to promote shots for all eligible students and staff. Read what the CDC is advising:

U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Promote equitable access to vaccinations.

Schools can do this by providing information, encouraging vaccine trust and confidence, and establishing supportive policies and practices that make getting vaccinated as easy and convenient as possible. That can include hosting a vaccination clinic at schools or connecting students and staff with clinics elsewhere.



VACCINATIONS