



There are 47 million K-12 students out of school in response to the COVID-19 virus. Some school districts and states will not re-open schools until the next school year starts in the fall.

### **The schools WILL re-open. But, will our schools be ready?**

What is your school district doing to prepare your school buildings so students, teachers, and the community return to healthy and safe environments? Questions to ask your school district:

- What is your plan to prepare school buildings for the return of students and teachers?
- Are schools being decluttered of long unused materials, books and technology so custodians can do effective deep cleaning and disinfecting?
- What methods and products will be used to deep clean and disinfect our schools?
- What guidelines has the school district provided for the safety and protection of our building custodians and maintenance workers during cleaning and repair work?
- While our schools are vacant, will our district evaluate and assess our facilities for urgently needed indoor health and safety projects (such as for asbestos & lead hazards)?
- Will our district do routine and urgently needed maintenance and repairs in our vacant schools before deep cleaning and ahead of students and staff returning?
- Will our district do any capital building projects, to make our schools healthier and safer? For example: mechanical system improvements for better air quality; new restroom fixtures and drinking fountains that have sensors to limit hand to hand transmission of germs; and/or asbestos and lead abatement?
- When will the school district report back to the school community on what was done in each school so it is ready for healthy and safe occupancy?

Answering these questions will ensure our schools are healthy and safe when they reopen for educating our children and for community uses, like voting, recreation, emergency response centers, health clinics and after care.

*For resources for your district, go to [www.facilitiescouncil.org](http://www.facilitiescouncil.org)*

School districts need guidance on preparing our nation's school facilities for the return of students once the pandemic subsides and it is safe again to gather in groups. Here are federal and state resources that may be helpful:

### Federal Guidance

#### The Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

- CDC's Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations. Provides recommendations on the cleaning and disinfection of school facilities for COVID-19: <https://bit.ly/3akx0ff>
- CDC's Interim Guidance for Administrators of U.S. Childcare Programs and K-12 Schools to Plan, Prepare, and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): <https://bit.ly/2vMaKfg>

#### The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- EPA provides a list of disinfectants for use against COVID-19 and also a frequently asked question section on disinfectants and COVID-19: <https://bit.ly/33Tzclj>

#### U.S. Department of Education (ED)

- Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance Center (REMS) provides a infectious disease planning guide and other specialized training materials:  
[https://rems.ed.gov/Docs/Zip%20Files/Infectious\\_Diseases.zip](https://rems.ed.gov/Docs/Zip%20Files/Infectious_Diseases.zip)  
<https://rems.ed.gov/TrainingPackage.aspx>

#### The Office of Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

- OSHA provides guidance on COVID-19 control and prevention for workers and the environments they work in: <https://bit.ly/2UiKjYb>

#### Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

- The Department of Homeland Security released guidance on March 19, 2020 on workers who are essential to critical infrastructure. <https://bit.ly/2JjQIBE>

#### Examples of State Level Guidance

- Washington State Department of Health provides classroom cleaning tips and an informative Q&A section for teachers and custodial staff: <https://bit.ly/2QFTHD0>; The department also offers a list of safe cleaning supplies to help provide a healthier classroom: <https://bit.ly/2xnVHZB>
- New York Department of Health provides COVID-19 guidance on interim cleaning and disinfection for primary and secondary schools: <https://on.ny.gov/3duftTW>
- The Department of Defense Department of Education Activities (DoDEA) has schools in South Korea which they are carefully reopening. They have developed protocols for reopening their schools following the corona virus outbreak in Korea. <https://bit.ly/2UIUo6P>