

Table 2. Recommended Implementation of Mitigation Strategies and K-12 School Learning Modes by Level of Community Transmission for Schools That Do Not Implement Expanded Screening Testing

Low Transmission ¹ Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
<p>All schools: Universal and correct use of masks is required; physical distancing; handwashing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities; contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine.</p> <p>Diagnostic testing²: Symptomatic students, teachers, and staff and close contacts referred for diagnostic testing</p>			
<p>K-12 schools open for full in-person instruction Physical distancing of 6 feet or more to the greatest extent possible³</p>		<p>Elementary schools in hybrid learning mode or reduced attendance⁴ Physical distancing of 6 feet or more is required</p>	
		<p>Middle and high schools in hybrid learning mode or reduced attendance Physical distancing of 6 feet or more is required</p>	<p>Middle and high schools in virtual only instruction unless they can strictly implement all mitigation strategies, and have few cases; schools that are already open for in-person instruction can remain open, but only if they strictly implement mitigation strategies and have few cases⁵</p>
<p>Sports and extracurricular activities occur; physical distancing of 6 feet or more to the greatest extent possible⁶</p>	<p>Sports and extracurricular activities occur with physical distancing of 6 feet or more required</p>	<p>Sports and extracurricular activities occur only if they can be held outdoors, with physical distancing of 6 feet or more</p>	<p>Sports and extracurricular activities are virtual only</p>

¹Levels of community transmission defined as total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days (low, 0-9; moderate, 10-49; substantial, 50-99; high, ≥100) and percentage of positive tests in the past 7 days (low, <5%; moderate, 5-7.9%; substantial, 8-9.9%; high, ≥10%).

²Diagnostic testing for SARS-CoV-2 is intended to identify occurrence of SARS-CoV-2 infection at the individual level and is performed on individuals with or without suspected COVID-19 infection in accordance with the test's authorization and labeling.

³If physical distancing of at least 6 feet among all students, teachers, and staff within a class, cohort, or pod is not possible at all times, schools should ensure physical distancing between classes, cohorts, and pods.

⁴Hybrid learning or reduced attendance is intended to maximize physical distance between students. Schools may consider hybrid learning models or instructional modes where substantial percentages of students are in virtual only instruction. At all levels of community transmission, schools should provide families the option to participate in virtual learning if a student or family member is at risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

⁵Strict implementation of mitigation strategies refers to policies that require consistent and correct use of masks, physical distancing of at least 6 feet, all other key mitigation strategies.

⁶School officials should implement limits on spectators and attendees for sports, extracurricular activities, and school events as consistent with recommendations for masking and physical distancing for each phase.