



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**



#StayStrongNC

StrongSchoolsNC

Susan Gale Perry, Chief Deputy Secretary
NC State Board of Education
July 24, 2020



COVID-19: Transmission

How COVID-19 Spreads

How does it spread?

- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- Between people who are in close contact with one another (6 feet).

When does it spread?

People are most contagious when they have symptoms. Symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath.

Can you get it from touching contaminated objects?

Possibly. If you touch a surface with the virus on it, then touch your mouth, nose or eyes (but not likely to be main way the virus spreads).

@NCDHHS

#COVID19NC

Proven Measures for Minimizing Risk



WEAR

a cloth covering over
your nose and mouth.



WAIT

6 feet apart. Avoid
close contact.



WASH

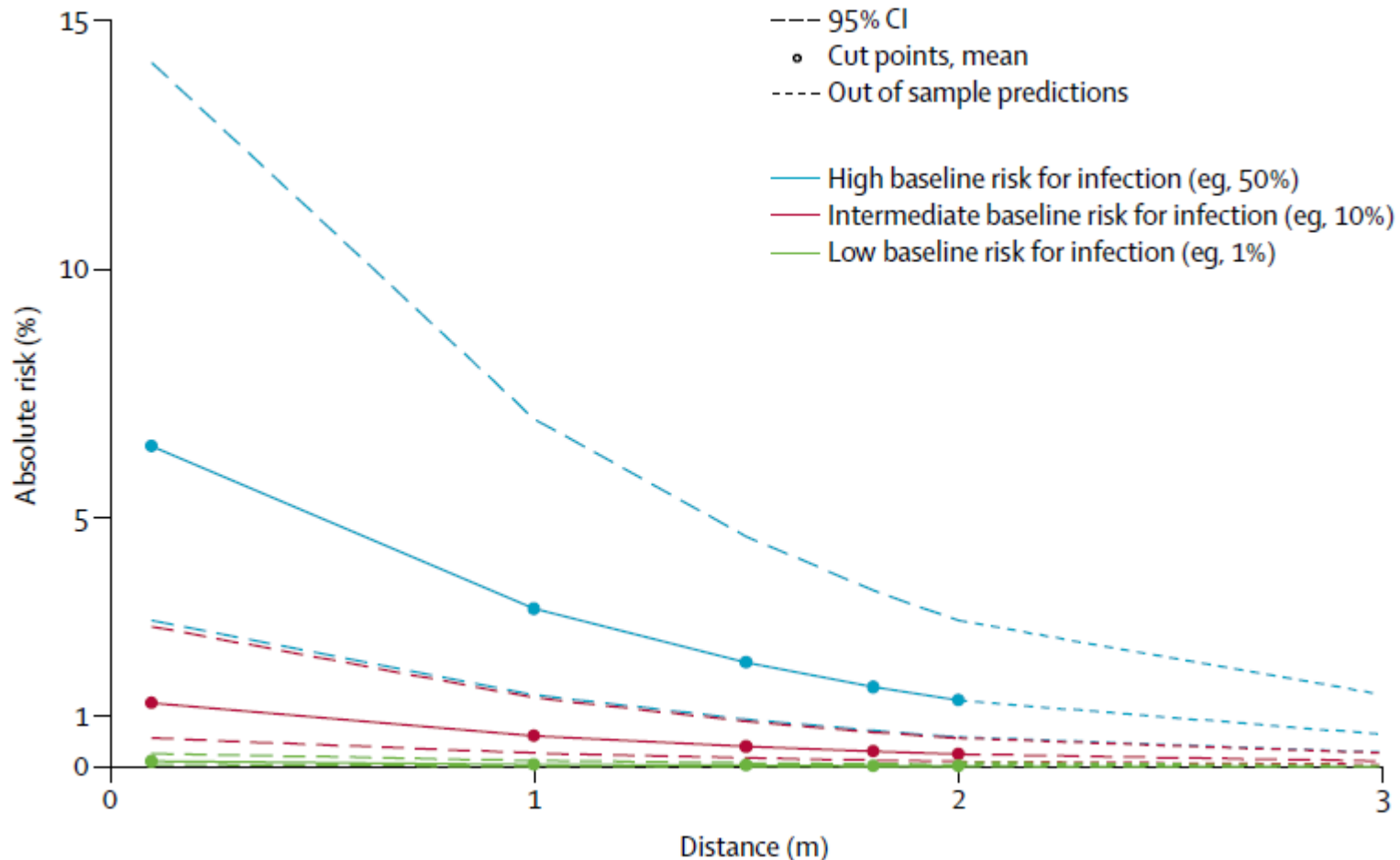
your hands or
use hand sanitizer.

@NCDHHS

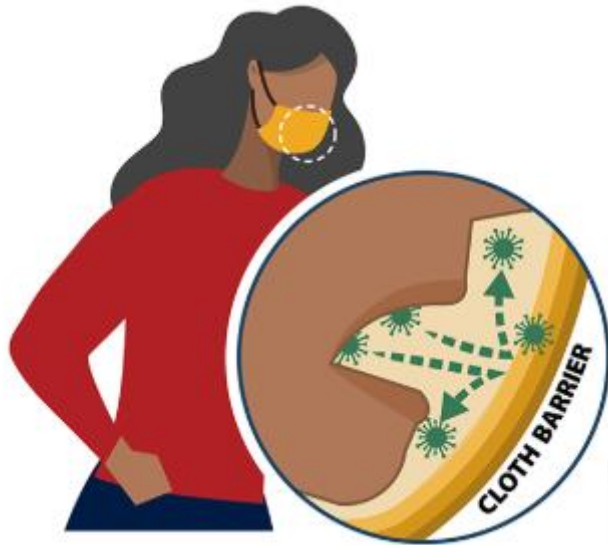
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Physical Distancing

- 3 feet can decrease risk of spread from 12.8% to 2.6%
- 6 feet doubles the protection



Face Coverings



May decrease risk of spread by 1/2 to 2/3

Two hair stylists with **COVID-19** spent at least 15 minutes with 139 clients

EVERYONE WORE FACE COVERINGS  **NO CLIENTS ARE KNOWN TO BE INFECTED***



WEAR CLOTH FACE COVERINGS CONSISTENTLY AND CORRECTLY TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

*No clients reported symptoms; all 67 customers tested had negative tests

CDC.GOV bit.ly/MMWR71420 MMWR

Chu et al. Lancet, June 2020; Mitze et al. Institute of Labor Economics June 2020; Leffler, et al MedRxiv June 15, 2020; Lyu and Wehby, Health Affairs, August 2020; Hendrix et al. CDC MMWR Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. July 14, 2020; <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html#recent-studies>

Handwashing

 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

Handwashing: Clean Hands Save Lives

Can reduce spread of respiratory illnesses by 20%

<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/why-handwashing.html#three>



CLEAN HANDS KEEP YOU HEALTHY.

Wash your hands with soap and water for at least

20 SECONDS.

LIFE IS BETTER WITH
CLEAN HANDS

www.cdc.gov/handwashing



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This material was developed by CDC. The Life is Better with Clean Hands Campaign is made possible by a partnership between the CDC Foundation, GOJO, and Staples. HHS/CDC does not endorse commercial products, services, or companies.

StrongSchoolsNC Toolkit

StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit includes

- Requirements that all schools must meet as a baseline
- Recommendations for additional strategies that schools may choose to use to minimize spread of COVID-19
- Toolkit first released *June 8*
- Updated: *July 14, July 24*

Plan B: Moderate Social Distancing

Effective July 14, 2020 and until further notice, schools must operate under 'Plan B' health and safety requirements, outlined in detail in this Toolkit, unless they choose the more restrictive 'Plan C.'

Schools may choose between 'Plan B' and 'Plan C' at any time.

Schools will have flexibility in how they choose to implement the requirements and is expected that all schools will also offer full-time virtual instruction for higher-risk students and teachers and for families opting for remote learning for their children.

Protecting Students, Families, Teachers and Staff



Face coverings required for every teacher, staff, and student from kindergarten through high school to reduce disease transmission



Schools must limit total number of people in the building so that 6 feet of distancing is possible (July 14)



Symptom screenings, including temperature checks, must take place daily before children can enter school buildings



Schedules must allow time for frequent hand washing and schools will regularly clean classrooms, bathrooms, buses and equipment



Seating on buses will be limited to one student per seat (unless a family member) (July 14)



Procedures must be in place for handling suspected, presumptive or confirmed cases of COVID-19



Plans must be in place for vulnerable teachers and staff



Remote learning option available for students and families

Additional Updates to K-12 Public Health Guidance

- Guidance on how teachers and staff should interact with each other in the safest ways possible (July 14)
- Recommendations provided for physical education, music, and band (July 14)
- Required to discontinue in-person activities that bring together large groups and/or do not allow for social distancing (July 14)
- Updated criteria to return to schools to 24 hours without symptoms (rather than 72 hours, per CDC) (July 14)

Clarification for Wearing of Face Coverings

*We know that wearing a cloth face covering is one of the best tools we have for reducing the spread of COVID-19. When schools reopen across NC, **face coverings will be required for all K – 12th grade students, teachers, staff and adult visitors**, ~~when they are or may be within 6 feet of another person, unless the person (or family member, for a student) states that an exception applies,~~ **or the person is eating, drinking, or strenuously exercising.***

Face coverings must be worn by K-12 students, and all teachers, staff, and adult visitors inside school buildings, and anywhere on school grounds, including outside. They will also be required while traveling on buses or other transportation vehicles.

Providing Access to Face Coverings and PPE

- The State has purchased 5 reusable cloth face coverings for all K-12 students, teachers and staff in NC public and charter schools
- The State has supplied a **PPE Starter Pack** for school nurses and delegated staff at all NC Public School Units, which includes:
 - Temporal touchless thermometers
 - Disposable surgical masks
 - Reusable face shields
 - Disposable gowns
- PPE Starter Pack supply will last schools **approximately two months**



Additional Resources



StrongSchoolsNC

Additional Information

- **FAQs**
English, Spanish
- **Social Media Outreach**
English, Spanish
- **What are we learning about COVID-19 and Children?**
English, Spanish
- **Memorandum on Preschool Programs and K-12 Public Health Guidance**
English

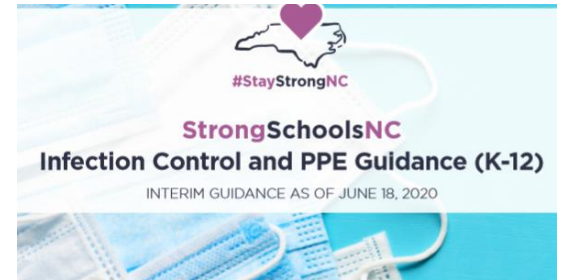


Reference Guide for Suspected, Presumptive, or Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 (K-12) INTERIM GUIDANCE AS OF JUNE 30, 2020



Cases Reference Guide

- **Screening flowchart for students and staff**
- **Positive screening protocol checklists (upon arrival and during the school day)**
- **Available online in English**



Infection Control/PPE Guidance

- **Infection control and PPE guidance**
- **PPE training for school nurses and designated staff**
- **Infection control checklist**
- **Recommendations on supply quantities**
- **Recommendations on how to purchase items from checklist**
- **List of PPE vendors with statewide contracts**
- **Available online in English**