

NEWS BRIEF

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CDC Study Supports Reopening of Schools With Proper Precautions

According to the medical journal JAMA, data now suggests a path forward to maintain or return primarily or fully to in-person instructional delivery for schools, with proper safety actions taken.

The journal entry, authored by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) scientists, advocates that data and policy should guide school reopenings. The entry states that school reopenings can be safe with the proper procedures in place, such as mask-wearing, social distancing, increasing air ventilation, expanding screening testing and using hybrid learning models when necessary to limit crowding.

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According to the CDC, the “type of rapid spread that was frequently observed in congregate living facilities or high-density worksites has not been reported in education settings in schools.”

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While the report acknowledges that schools can be reopened safely with proper procedures, the CDC stresses that local officials should continue to use safety measures to keep communities safe, such as limiting indoor settings where studies show COVID-19 transmission is high, including bars, restaurants and gyms.

What This Means

Schools have reopened in many areas of the United States, while others continue to operate virtually or use a hybrid approach. This endorsement from the CDC does not, in isolation, mean that all school districts will indeed reopen.

Employers should follow local media to stay up-to-date on reopening timelines. As employees return to the office, employers should consider how the reopening of schools may impact employees who have caregiving obligations.

For more information on the COVID-19 pandemic, contact Kinloch Consulting Group, Inc. today.

