

# COVID-19: Guidance for Educational Institutions from the Wyoming Department of Health

March 27, 2020

## Background

On March 19, 2020, Wyoming's State Health Officer issued a statewide public health order closing various types of businesses across Wyoming in order to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 virus. This included educational institutions – like K-12 schools, universities, colleges, and trade schools. Educational institutions may remain open to conduct administrative business or adapted learning, as well as providing meals for those in need. This document provides guidance for educational institutions who remain open during the COVID-19 outbreak. Questions regarding enforcement and interpretation of closure orders can be directed to your County Public Health Office.

Copies of the public health orders can be found here: <https://covid19.wyo.gov/>

## General Guidance

The Wyoming Department of Health recommends the following guidelines to educational institutions who remain open during statewide closures resulting from the COVID-19 outbreak:

1. More than 10 people may occupy a facility building for business or non-instructional purposes. All efforts should be made to **not** have 10 people or more in one confined area.
2. Schools may work with their county health officers on possible variances in the orders in order to provide limited in-person instruction for students in the greatest need (e.g., those with IEPs or other special needs), so long as proper social distancing, hygiene, and enhanced sanitation are practiced, following guidelines from the CDC and Wyoming Department of Health.
3. Educational institutions may provide meals to students and staff who remain on campus, but should provide meals on a pick-up or delivery basis whenever possible. Dining halls should close except to those in immediate need. Dining halls that remain open should limit the number of individuals served at one time and increase distance between seats.
4. Educational institutions that remain open for any reason should implement enhanced sanitation and hygiene, including having staff **wash hands frequently with soap and water** for at least 20 seconds. When soap and water is not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol volume. **Cover your coughs and sneezes. Maintain distance of 6 feet or more from others as much as possible and hold meetings virtually when possible.**
5. Educational institutions should engage in frequent and thorough cleaning on a daily basis, following all applicable regulations regarding cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting surfaces and other areas.
6. Staff should be monitored for symptoms, including fever, cough, and shortness of breath. **Staff who have these symptoms or report feeling sick should stay home.**
7. Educational institutions should restrict campus visitation and disallow visitation by non-essential staff and personnel.
8. Signs should be posted instructing and educating staff on routine measures for hygiene and mitigation of respiratory illness spread. The CDC has [specific resources](#) for schools and [numerous print resources](#), including the following posters:
  - a. <https://www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/pdf/stay-home-youre-sick-employers-item4.pdf>
  - b. <https://www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/pdf/dont-spread-germs-work-item3.pdf>