

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

Updated May 15, 2020

## Background

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Wyoming's State Health Officer issued continuations of three statewide public health orders. The orders include continued closure of educational institutions – like K-12 schools, universities, colleges, and trade schools – through June 1<sup>st</sup>. However, educational institutions may continue to open to conduct administrative business or adapted learning, to provide limited instruction to certain students, and to provide meals for those in need. **In addition, schools may work with their County Health Officer regarding exceptions to the closure of schools.** All plans for re-opening should follow all applicable requirements and policies set forth by the Wyoming Department of Education.

Questions regarding enforcement and interpretation of public health 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. Schools may work with their county health officers on possible exceptions to the closure orders, to provide in-person instruction for students – beyond those in need of specialized or technical instruction who are already permitted on-site without an exception – so long as proper social distancing, hygiene, and enhanced sanitation are practiced, following guidelines from the CDC and Wyoming Department of Health.
2. More than 25 people may occupy a facility building for business or non-instructional purposes, but **all efforts should be made to limit the number of people in one room or confined area to 25 or less.**
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 in a tissue or with your elbow. 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. Staff and students should be encouraged to wear face coverings when coming into contact within 6 feet of one another.
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](#).