

What is the evidence and rationale describing the key public health principles to consider for school re-openings and precautions regarding school closures during COVID-19?

<https://covid19evidencereviews.saskhealthauthority.ca/en/permalink/coviddoc154>

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Key Findings:

A number of jurisdictions have re-opened schools successfully without a spike in COVID-19 cases, eg. Japan, Germany, France, Finland, Denmark, Austria, Norway

Most school plans indicate that staff/students/visitors who are sick or have had exposure to COVID-19 in the past 14 days should not attend school, and those that become symptomatic at school should be isolated and removed from the premises as soon as possible, with thorough cleaning thereafter

In Alberta, if two or more members of a cohort are found to be COVID-19 positive, schools should follow the outbreak procedures which are under review until September

In Nova Scotia, one confirmed case of COVID-19 in a school would be considered an outbreak

In Germany, classmates and teachers of an infected student are sent home for two weeks but other classes continue

Taiwan (based on the H1N1 response) suspends the class which had a confirmed case identified, for 14 days. With two or more cases the whole school must close. When 1/3 of the schools in a district are closed, all schools in the district must close.

In Israel, schools closed after a single case was identified, and following mass outbreaks in schools at least 355 schools had closed with over 2,026 students and staff testing positive and over 28,000 students in quarantine due to possible exposure

Category: Infection Prevention and Control
Subject: Reopening
Closures
Schools
Public Health
Decision Making
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Priority Level: Level 5 completed within 2 weeks

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Evidence Search Report: EOC070901-01 ESR

Documents



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