



Reopening of Schools and COVID-19

The covid-19 pandemic has affected educational systems globally. In a bid to prevent the spread of the virus, governments temporarily closed down schools between March and April 2020. By early June, many countries in Europe and some states in the United States allowed schools and daycare centers to reopen; however, schools around the world remain closed. Decisions about whether to reopen schools during the coronavirus pandemic are naturally fraught with difficulties, given the many potentially conflicting needs involved. Some of these needs include the health of pupils and teachers; the need for education and socialization; and economic and mental-health imperatives for parents to work without simultaneously caring for their kids. After several deliberations on the reopening of schools, the President of Ghana announced the reopening of schools (across all levels) after a 9-month closure. This was a timely call as children in less privileged communities struggled to continue their education with online learning tools. Also, some children who benefited from the school feeding program were denied their daily hot meal due to the restrictions.

Schools provide important services and support for children's academic, social-emotional, and physical health. The benefits of in-person learning and services should be weighed against the risks of COVID-19 for your child and your household.

Experts' views on Reopening Schools albeit the COVID-19 pandemic:

- There is no evidence that closing schools will control transmission. The Warwick University researchers said that reopening schools in England with either class which are half the size or are focused on younger children were unlikely to push the transmission rate of the virus. Nevertheless, given that older children have a greater number of social contacts, making them more likely to transmit the virus, the research found that reopening secondary or high schools would cause a higher number of case increases than primary school pupils.
- Children do not spread COVID-19 disease like adults. During the yearly flu season, children spread the flu to friends and grandparents alike. But COVID-19 behaves differently. In household clusters in China, Singapore, South Korea, Japan, and Iran, fewer than 10 percent of children were the primary spreader—meaning the virus goes from adult to adult much more effectively than from children to other children, or even children to adults.
- Children rarely get severely ill from COVID-19. Data from around the world have confirmed children very rarely require hospitalization, and generally only experience mild symptoms when infected. About 1.3 percent of children with a known case of COVID-19 have been hospitalized and 0.01 percent have died.

School reopening Arrangements During the Pandemic:

- Scottish government's detailed guidelines in reopening schools in 2021 ([Learn more](#))
- How Denmark reopened schools during the pandemic ([Watch here](#))
- Spain, Iran, France, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and German schools reopen to new normal ([Watch here](#))