

School Health Screening

Implementation Tips During Respiratory Disease Season Outbreaks

The purpose of this document is to provide general recommendations for student and staff safety as schools make plans to conduct the required school health screenings for hearing, vision, dental, and height and weight. If your school is experiencing an outbreak, postpone screenings until outbreak is over. Find the full text of the school health screening rules and regulations here: [Title 173 Chapter 7](#).

Students:

- Hand hygiene: Have students wash hands or use hand sanitizer prior to screening.
- Face coverings: Students who are able to wear face coverings may do so for screening.
- Exclude students with symptoms of illness, such as vomiting, diarrhea, fever, and respiratory distress. Screen them when they are feeling better and symptom free.

Nurses and Other Screeners:

- Hand hygiene: Wash hands frequently or sanitize them frequently, such as, between students.
- Height/weight, hearing, and vision screening: Screener should wear a surgical mask or better (K95 or N95). Gloves and eye protection are considered optional but may be used. Wearing a face shield in addition to a mask is recommended when screening students that cannot wear a face covering.
- Dental screening: Screener should wear gloves, surgical mask or better (K95 or N95), and eye protection (safety glasses or face shield).

Cleaning and Disinfecting:

- Surfaces in direct contact with students should be disinfected between uses.
- High touch surfaces should be disinfected twice daily. A specific list of high touch surfaces should be made for each area.
- Consult the manufacturer's directions for the best solutions for cleaning and disinfecting screening equipment. Any EPA-registered disinfectant is acceptable; however, know the contact time needed for proper disinfection. Considerations should be made to use disinfectants that are [safer for students with asthma](#), such as using hydrogen peroxide or alcohol wipes rather than bleach.
- Disposable eye occluders may be used for vision screening. Frames for near vision screening can be disinfected with alcohol wipes. Disposable earpiece/headphone covers may be used for hearing screening. Audiometers and headphones should be cleaned and disinfected according to instructions from manufacturer. For weight screening, students should take their shoes off. Consider having each student place a paper towel on the scale before stepping on.



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Spacing, Environment, and Other Infection Control Tips:

- Schools may choose to screen smaller groups of students and space them throughout the year (screenings can be done at any time during the school year).
- Conduct screenings in a space large enough to accommodate physical distancing, is well ventilated, and has not been occupied by any sick student or staff. If available, use portable HEPA filters to augment existing ventilation. Multiple units may be needed for large spaces.
- Rooms where screenings are conducted should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before and after use.
- Use rooms with a separate entrance and exit when possible.
- Screenings can be conducted in the classroom so the students stay in place.
- For dental screenings, team a screener with a person to record results.
- Document the date, time, and location where screenings occur.
- School health teams should consider stocking infection prevention supplies for use during higher rates of illness. Supplies to consider include disinfectant wipes, adult and child sized masks, facial tissue, and alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Reminders:

- Screening results may be taken from physical examination, visual evaluation, or dental examination reports if equivalent screening results are available and documented.
- The student may be excused from hearing, vision, and/or dental screening if the parent brings a signed statement from a physician, PA, or APRN stating that the child has had these screenings done in the past 6 months. Parents may refuse height and weight screening if they bring in a signed and dated statement of refusal (this must be done annually).
- Students opting for year-long remote learning still need to comply with screening regulations. They either need to come to school for screening or have a signed statement (see above).

Further Information:

- AAPOS: [Pediatric Vision Screening Guidance during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- ASHA Audiology: [Infection Prevention and Control for Audiology Equipment](#)
- ASTDD: [School Nurses The Key to Good Oral Health During COVID-19](#)
- ASTDD/NASN: [Considerations for School Nurses in Return to School: Dental Screening](#)
- CDC: [Hand Hygiene in Schools](#)
- CDC: [Project Firstline \(training for healthcare infection control\)](#)
- EPA: [List N: Disinfectants for Use Against Sars-COV-2](#)
- Nebraska ICAP: [School Facility Resources](#)
- NASN: [PPE requirements for school nurses/health professionals](#)
- Prevent Blindness: [Considerations for Children's Vision Screening Programs During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

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