

# A Summary of MI Safe Schools: Return to School Roadmap

*Return to Learn Advisory Council*

## Overview

The MI Safe Schools Roadmap provides required and strongly recommended safety protocols to keep school communities safe based on the status of the coronavirus (COVID-19). Additionally, the Roadmap provides recommendations for mental and social-emotional health, instruction, and operations within each phase of the MI Safe Start Plan to support all schools in Michigan as they continue their return to school planning work and move towards implementation.

### Learning scenarios for fall 2020.

MI Safe School has three learning scenarios for fall 2020. The first being full in-person learning, the second is a hybrid scenario where in-person and remote learning are utilized, and last is full remote learning. Schools may choose which scenario is best for their community based on the phases laid out below.

## MI Safe Start Phases

### MI Safe Start Phase 6

*Schools open for in-person instruction with minimal required safety protocols. Schools can choose to utilize in-person, hybrid, or remote learning styles.*

**Virus status:** Post-Pandemic. Few, if any, active COVID-19 cases locally. Community spread not expected to return. Sufficient community immunity and availability of treatment.

**How to keep school communities safe:** Practice good hygiene.

**School operating status:** Open for in-person instruction. Schools can choose to utilize in-person, hybrid, or remote learning at this time.

### MI Safe Start Phase 5

*Schools open for in-person instruction with moderate required safety protocols. Schools still have the option for hybrid or remote learning at this time.*

**Virus status:** New cases and deaths continue to decrease for an additional period of time. At this point, the number of active cases has reached a point in which infection from other members of the community is less common. With widespread testing, positivity rates often fall much lower than earlier phases. Rapid case investigation, contact tracing, and containment strategies cause new cases to continue to fall.

**How to keep school communities safe:** School preparedness and response activities around surveillance and active mitigation continue from Phase 4, with a loosening of required safety protocols. Schools should remain prepared to implement social distancing measures. Short-term dismissals and suspension of extracurricular activities remain possible for cleaning and contact tracing purposes.

Teachers at risk of severe illness should remain prepared to implement remote teaching and students at risk of severe illness should remain prepared to implement alternate learning modalities. Schools must consider the judgment of the local health department for the sub-region of concern (e.g., county or ISD).

**School operating status:** Schools open for in-person instruction with minimal required safety protocols. Schools still have the option for hybrid or remote learning at this time.

**Essential actions and safety protocols:** Safety protocols, mental and social-emotional well-being, instruction, and operations.

## **MI Safe Start Phase 4**

*Schools open for in-person instruction with more stringent required safety protocols. Schools can choose to utilize in-person, hybrid, or remote learning at this time.*

**Virus status:** The number of new cases and deaths has fallen for a period of time, but overall case levels are still high. Most new outbreaks are quickly identified, traced, and contained due to robust testing infrastructure and rapid contact tracing. Health system capacity can typically handle these new outbreaks and, therefore, case fatality rate does not rise above typical levels. The overall number of infected individuals still indicate the need for social distancing to stop transmission and move to the next phase.

**How to keep school communities safe:** School should continue ongoing surveillance and execution of a series of active mitigation measures. Schools should be prepared to implement social distancing measures. Short-term dismissals and suspension of extracurricular activities should be expected for cleaning and contact tracing purposes. Schools must consider the judgment of the local health department for the sub-region of concern (e.g., county or ISD).

**School operating status:** In-person instruction is permitted with required safety protocols. Schools can choose to utilize in-person, hybrid, or remote learning at this time.

**Essential actions and safety protocols:** Safety protocols, mental and social-emotional well-being, instruction, and operations.

## **MI Safe Start Phases 1-3**

*Schools are not open for in-person instruction and instruction is provided remotely.*

**Virus status:** Community spread of the virus is increasing and substantial. There is concern about the health system capacity. Testing and tracking efforts may not be sufficient to control the spread of the pandemic.

**School operating status:** No in-person instruction, remote only.

**Essential actions and safety protocols:** Safety protocols, mental and social-emotional well-being, instruction, and operations.