World Health Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Europe

unicef
for every child

Schooling in the time of COVID-19

Resource pack with tips and tools to help guide the reopening of schools as safely as possible.

Introduction

Schools are essential for children's learning, health, safety and well-being. But students' learning suffered a major setback as most educational institutions reduced or cancelled in-person instruction and moved to remote learning and teaching to minimize the spread of COVID-19. Prolonged school closures continue to jeopardise the future of millions of children across the globe. The Europe and Central Asia Region is no exception.

Schools should be the first to open and last to close. Getting children back in the classroom remains a priority for UNICEF and WHO Regional Offices, striking a balance between applying public health and social measures and ensuring that children are able to continue learning and socializing to the great extent possible. UNICEF and WHO have created several tools and resources to support countries in their back-to-school efforts. This joint UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (UNICEF/ECARO) and WHO Regional Office for Europe Schooling Resource Pack has an easy-to-find compilation of materials to help parents/caregivers, teachers and students return to school safely.

This resources pack brings materials to each of the following audiences:

School administrators/ Authorities

Parents/ Caregivers

Teachers

Students

For each audience, materials are provided in the format of one-page including links to resources from both UNICEF and WHO. All materials can be downloaded and printed.

Target audience 1: School administrators/Authorities

UNICEF resources

- **[New] Building resilient education systems beyond the COVID-19 pandemic: Second set of considerations.** A set of considerations to address the most pressing priorities and mitigate the most significant risks to ensure that all children and young people participate in high-quality, inclusive and safe learning.

- **Short guidance on enhancing two-way communication at schools.**

- **Protective measures poster.**

- **Promising practices for equitable remote learning.** Using data from household surveys (MICS and DHS) and information on national education responses to school closures in over 120 countries, this brief explores potential promising practices for equitable remote learning.

- **Guidance to developing a feedback mechanism at local level for schools during COVID-19.** The guidance describes a process of setting up a feedback mechanism as an integrated system, whereby it can receive and manage programmatic feedback, communicating with caregivers, communities/citizens during emergencies and recovery response, ensuring their involvement.

- **Guidance for Safe and Healthy Journeys to School. During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond.** This guidance provides specific tips and practical steps for measures to help keep students safe on school premises, but also on the journey to school.

WHO resources

- **[New] Communication response to the COVID-19 outbreak in schools.** The aim of this document is to guide response of local health authorities and school administrators to an outbreak of VODI-19 in schools.

- **[New] Advice on the use of masks for children.** A set of questions and answers about when and how children should wear a mask.

Joint resources

- **[New] Teacher's guide to the Magnificient Mei and Friends Comic Series:** The guide provides tips for planning and facilitation of classroom activities focused on social-emotional learning among adolescents.

- **Guidance for school administrators to communicate with students, parents/caregivers and teachers: Schooling in time of COVID-19.** This guidance provides tips and recommendations for school administrators on how to effectively communicate with students, parents/caregivers and teachers and help them make informed decisions to send children back to school.

- **Practical tips for school administrators to help guide safe reopening of schools.** This guidance outlines practical tips to support school administrators on how to implement safety measures and create safe learning environment for children.

- **Recommendations for health and educational authorities to ensure safe reopening of schools.** This guidance sets out some of the effective health measures and recommendations.

- **Key Messages and Actions for COVID-19 Prevention and Control in Schools.** The purpose of this document is to provide clear and actionable guidance for safe operations through the prevention, early detection and control of COVID-19 in schools and other educational facilities.

- **COVID-19 and its implications for protecting children online**. This technical note sets out some of the key priorities and recommendations on how to mitigate those risks and promote positive online experiences for children.

Target audience 2: Parents/Caregivers

UNICEF resources

- **[New] Back to school:** A set of questions and answers to help parents and caregivers to help them protect their children from COVID-19 as schools reopen.

- **[New] What you need to know about COVID-19 vaccines.** A set of questions and answers to the most common questions about COVID-19 vaccines.

- **[New] How to talk to your children about COVID-19 vaccines.** Tips for parents and caregivers to help children understand how vaccines work.

- **[New] COVID-19: Frequently asked questions.** Tips and guidance for parents and caregivers to protect children and family during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Coronavirus (COVID-19) parenting tips.** A set of tips developed by UNICEF and Parenting for Lifelong Health initiative to help parents and caregivers to positively engage with their children while dealing with COVID-19 challenges.

- **COVID-19 and masks: Tips for families.** Expert information on masks and COVID-19, how to wear and look after masks correctly, and ideas on how to successfully introduce them to family members.

- **Guidance for Safe and Healthy Journeys to School. During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond.** This guidance provides specific tips and practical steps for measures to help keep students safe on school premises, but also on the journey to school.

WHO resources

- **[New] Q&A on COVID-19: Schools.** A set of questions and answers about COVID-19.

- **[New] Q&A on COVID-19: Adolescents and youth.** A set of questions and answers on how COVID-19 affects children and adolescents.

- **[New] Science in 5 video: Vaccines and children.** WHO's Chief Scientist Dr. Sowmya Swaminathan answers questions about vaccination of children against COVID-19.

- **[New] Q&A on COVID-19: Children and masks.** A set of questions and answers on the use of masks for children.

- **[New] Advice on the use of masks for children.** A set of questions and answers about when and how children should wear a mask.

- **What you should know about children and COVID-19**

- **Hand washing poster.** This printable poster promotes good hand hygiene and can be placed at home to encourage children wash their hands.

Joint resources

- **Checklist for parents and caregivers on protecting their child from COVID-19.**

Target audience 3: Teachers

UNICEF resources

- **Tips on how teachers can support and talk to students about the pandemic and school activities**.

- **Ten mental health and well-being tips for teachers**.

- **Q&A on the importance of teacher's vaccination.**

- **Guidance for Safe and Healthy Journeys to School. During the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond.** This guidance provides specific tips and practical steps for measures to help keep students safe on school premises, but also on the journey to school. It contains checklists for education authorities, school administration and teachers, parents/caregivers and students to support safe and healthy journeys to school.

- **Guidance and tips for schools on how to strengthen communication with parents and caregivers.** This guidance helps teachers and schools strengthen communication with parents and families.

WHO resources

- **[New] Q&A on COVID-19: Schools.** A set of questions and answers about COVID-19 on how to prevent the transmission of virus in the school setting.

- **[New] Q&A on COVID-19: Adolescents and youth.** A set of questions and answers on how COVID-19 affects children and adolescents.

- **[New] Advice on the use of masks for children.** A set of questions and answers about when and how children should wear a mask.

Joint resources

- **[New] Set of social media tiles on vaccination for teachers.**

- **[New] A set of social media tiles for safer schooling.** Social media tiles with recommendations on safer schooling environment.

- **How to reduce risks of COVID-19 infection in the classroom.** A poster visualisation on measures that can be taken in the classroom to reduce the risks of COVID-19 infection.

- **Why should teachers get vaccinated.** A set of questions and answers on vaccination against COVID-19 for teachers.

Target audience 4: Students

UNICEF resources

- **Q&A for students on COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines.**
- **Tips for students to talk with other students about COVID-19 and school reopening.**

WHO resources

- **Video for younger children on what testing is, how to recognise COVID symptoms and how to stay safe.**

Joint resources

- **A set of social media tiles for students on going back to school.**
- **Social media tiles, on keeping universities safer from COVID-19**
- **Students' well-being including mental health and post-COVID.**