

CDC / California K -12 Schools Guidance Crosswalk Overview

On February 12, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) under President Biden issued guidance on safely resuming in-person instruction in K-12 schools. The [CDC guidance](#) is a set of non-mandatory recommendations and **does not supersede existing state or local guidance.**

The CDC guidance is **highly aligned** with California’s approach. Where there are differences, California’s health and safety standards for school staff and students are **generally more cautious.**

Community Transmission

California takes a more cautious approach with regard to first-time school openings when community transmission is relatively high. The following chart summarizes some of the key comparisons:

| Community Transmission | CDC | California |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| ALL | "Schools that are already open . . . can remain open" | "Schools that are already open . . . can remain open" |
| 0 - 1.3 cases per day | All schools may open | All schools may open |
| 1.4 - 7 cases per day | All schools may open | All schools may open |
| 7.1 - 14.1 cases per day | All schools may open | Only elementary schools may open |
| Greater than 14.1 cases per day | Only elementary schools may open | Elementary schools may open, unless greater than 25 cases per day |

California’s community transmission thresholds are based on recent [studies](#) indicating minimal school-related transmission in communities with 15 – 29 cases per day, the [recommendation](#) from the Harvard Global Health Institute, and similar approaches taken by other states (e.g., [Oregon](#), [Colorado](#), [Washington](#)).

For more guidance and information about how the pandemic is affecting Sonoma County Schools or to access family resources for distance learning, please visit scoe.org/covid.

This document is a summary of the [CDC - California K-12 Schools Guidance Crosswalk](#) created by the State of California. For more information on the State's efforts visit schools.covid19.ca.gov.