



Opportunity Through Education

Jillian Balow – *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2021-066

TO: School District Superintendents
FROM: Jillian Balow, Superintendent of Public Instruction
DATE: May 10, 2021
SUBJECT: COVID-19 School Mitigation Strategies Survey

COVID-19 SCHOOL MITIGATION STRATEGIES SURVEY

The Wyoming Department of Education is working with the Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on a best practice in mitigation strategies implemented by K-12 schools. Since Wyoming is the national leader for in-person instruction this school year, it is important that our story is shared. The CDC wants to gain more knowledge about what strategies can be used to mitigate the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 within the school setting. The hope is that our information can help reduce uncertainty when shared with schools in other states who are planning to reopen later this year for the first time. I know you have been inundated with surveys so I am sorry to add another, but it is important for Wyoming to participate.

To address this knowledge gap and to create evidence-based guidance for the prevention of SARS-CoV-2 transmission, the WDH and CDC, along with your local health department, invite schools to participate in a **20-30 minute online survey** about the school's mitigation strategies. By comparing the various strategies across many different types of schools (rural versus urban, small versus large, public versus private, and many other factors), and comparing that information among schools with cases and schools without cases, they can identify strategies that are most effective at reducing transmission. Please answer the survey by considering the measures you've had in place for the majority of the time since January, 2021.

The survey will be best completed by a member of the school that is familiar with the operations and mitigation strategies currently in place, as well as any cases or clusters of cases that have occurred within the school. Information from the school will not be shared publicly, and any data

generated from the school will only be shared at the aggregate level if it is included in a scientific publication and **the school will not be named**. The school will have an opportunity to review any publication prior to submission.

Access the survey [here](#). By participating, you will help schools and public health generate guidance of best practices that can be implemented nationally and state-wide to further stop the spread of SARS-CoV-2, reduce the number of cases in our student population, staff, and the community, and reduce the need to quarantine large numbers of people. If you have questions, contact Dr. Alexia Harrist, State Health Officer, Wyoming Department of Health, at 307-777-7716 or alexia.harrist1@wyo.gov. The survey will be open for two weeks starting May 10 and going through May 21.

If you have begun the survey, but have been unable to complete it, you can still do so. Here are some helpful instructions on how to return to the survey, or if a school wants multiple people to review or complete the survey.

- Select the *Save & Return Later* button found at the bottom of each survey page.
- A pop-up box containing your 'Return Code' will be generated. **Copy or write down the Return Code**. Without it, you and others will not be able to return and continue the survey. Once you have the code, click Close and follow the other instructions on the page.
- Enter your e-mail address to have the survey link e-mailed to you. **The Return Code will not be included in the email. Please make sure you wrote it down or copied it in the previous step.**
- You will receive an email with a link to the survey you started/completed. Send BOTH the Return Code and survey link to additional individuals who you would like to review or contribute to the survey.