MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

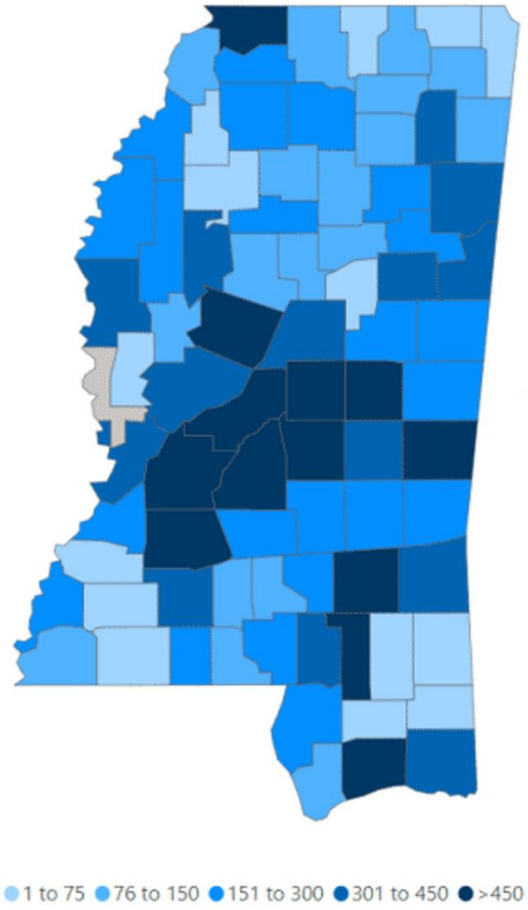
Safer at School

6/23/2020

Role of Department of Health

- Provide data (state and local) along with general guidance
- Coordinate case and outbreak response
- Provide supportive guidance on safer approaches to all school based activities, within the context of individualized planning in each district
- Provide uniform guidance for situations impacting all school systems where standardization is necessary

Mississippi COVID-19
Cases and Deaths by Race with Ethnicity
as of 6 pm CT, June 21, 2020



Total Cases

22,287

	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black	White	Other	Unknown
Non Hispanic	309	61	10,471	5,368	308	44
Hispanic	7	1	40	282	839	26
Unknown Ethnicity	656	8	963	548	629	1,727

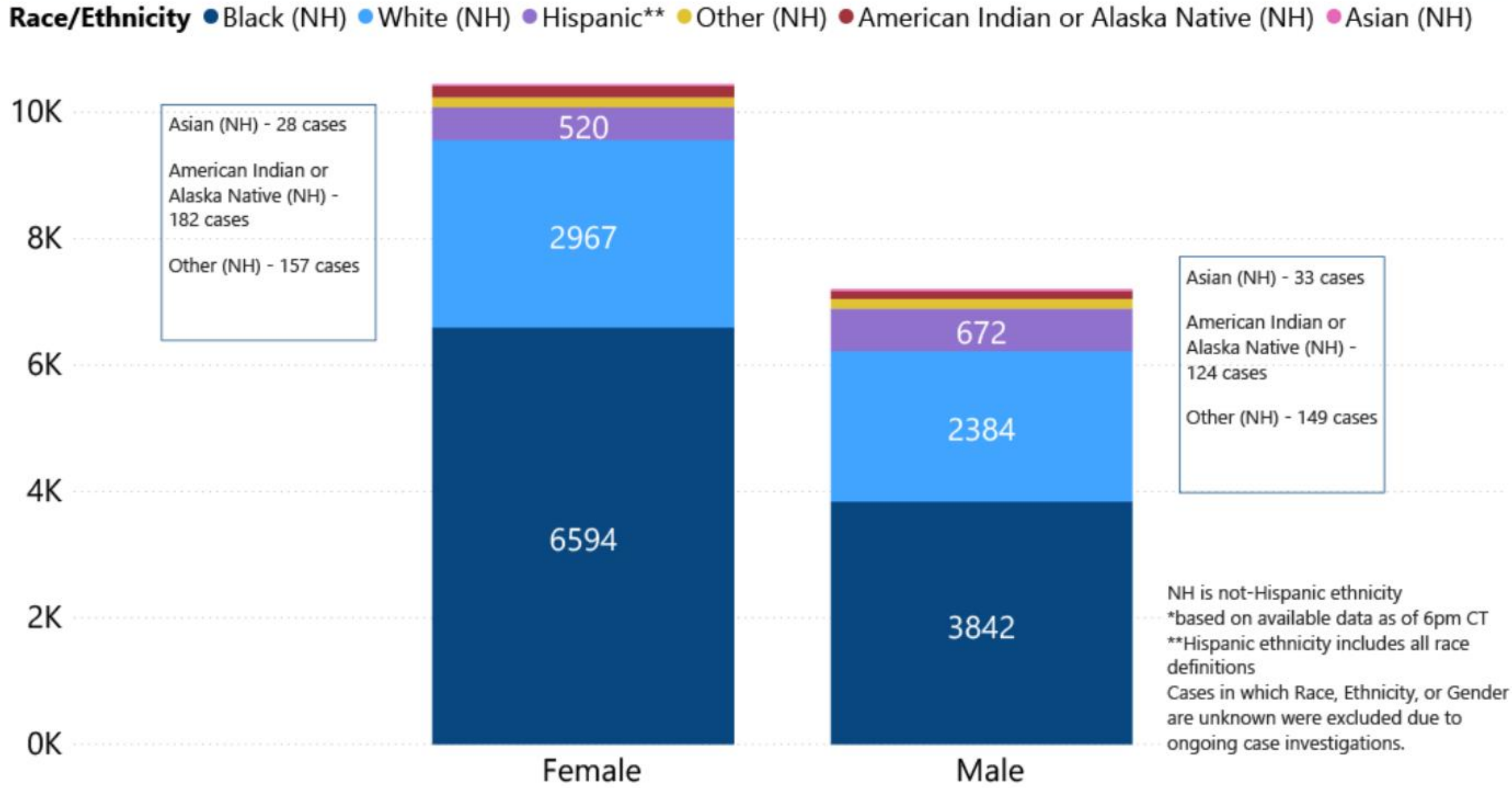
Total Deaths

978

	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black	White	Other	Unknown
Non Hispanic	38	0	484	383	2	0
Hispanic	1	0	0	7	8	0
Unknown Ethnicity	15	0	14	17	4	5

COVID-19 Update

COVID-19 Cases by Race/Ethnicity and Gender through June 21, 2020*, Mississippi



NH is not-Hispanic ethnicity
*based on available data as of 6pm CT
**Hispanic ethnicity includes all race definitions
Cases in which Race, Ethnicity, or Gender are unknown were excluded due to ongoing case investigations.

COVID-19

- Respiratory Virus that spreads in manner similar to Flu
- Similar symptoms with some additional manifestations (loss of taste and smell)
- Primarily via air but also contaminated surfaces
- Incubation period ~ 5 days (up to 14 days)
- Contagious up to 10 days from onset of symptoms
- Asymptomatic spread common (asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic)

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Symptoms

Testing

Prevent Getting Sick

If You Are Sick

Daily Life & Coping

People Who Need Extra Precautions

Pets & Other Animals

Travel

Considerations for Schools

Other Languages | Print Page

Updated May 19, 2020

As some communities in the United States open K-12 schools, CDC offers the following considerations for ways in which schools can help protect students, teachers, administrators, and staff and slow the spread of COVID-19. Schools can determine, in collaboration with state and local health officials to the extent possible, whether and how to implement these considerations while adjusting to meet the unique needs and circumstances of the local community. Implementation should be guided by what is feasible, practical, acceptable, and tailored to the needs of each community. School-based health facilities may refer to CDC's Guidance for U.S. Healthcare Facilities and may find it helpful to reference the Ten Ways Healthcare Systems Can Operate Effectively During the COVID-19 Pandemic. These considerations are meant to supplement—**not replace**—any state, local, territorial, or tribal health and safety laws, rules, and regulations with which schools must comply.

On This Page

Guiding Principles

Reduce Spread

Healthy Environments

Healthy Operations

When Someone Gets Sick

Other Resources

Case Investigation and Outbreak Response—General Considerations

- Students and staff will become infected with COVID-19 (whether through transmission in the community or within the school)
- All COVID-19 cases must be isolated at home for 14 days
- Close contacts to COVID-19 cases must be quarantined for 14 days
- Source Control and Safety measures in schools can prevent most transmission
- Please follow general guidance of CDC

Dismissals/Closures

- Elevated cases within a group or classroom may require more extensive quarantine
- Certain case levels may necessitate temporary dismissal of students in particular classes or buildings, or closure of the entire school
- School closures and dismissals may be reactive or If schools are dismissed temporarily, discourage students and staff from gathering or socializing anywhere, like at a friend’s house, a favorite restaurant, or the local shopping mall.

Case Response for COVID-19

- Case identified in student or staff—
  - In most instances the school will become aware before MSDH. Notify your local Epidemiology staff when student or staff are positive
  - MSDH will notify the school when aware if not previously reported. Parents will be encouraged to notify the school as well. In the event that MSDH is aware of COVID-19 case, school will be notified
- The school should communicate the expectation that all cases notify the school and stay in isolation at home for a full 14 days
- Parents should be notified when a student or teacher are positive- this may be targeted notification based on the group size.

Sample Parent Notification

- A student (or teacher/coach) in your child's class (group/team) has been diagnosed with COVID-19
- All individuals should monitor for symptoms and consult your child's physician as needed.
- Some children may receive a separate notification to quarantine at home for 14 days.
- As a reminder, always keep your child home if they are ill.

Response Process for Case of COVID-19

- MSDH
  - Case investigation/isolation order
  - Notify school (if not previously notified)
  - Contact investigation and quarantine orders of close contacts (MSDH will work with school to ascertain close contacts)
  - Recommend testing of all close contacts
- School
  - Notify MSDH
  - Arrange for education plan / staffing plan for absent student/staff
  - Environmental cleaning of affected areas
  - Assist with identifying close contacts
  - Send all close contacts home x 14 days

Close Contact = <6 ft x 15 min (or more) and no mask

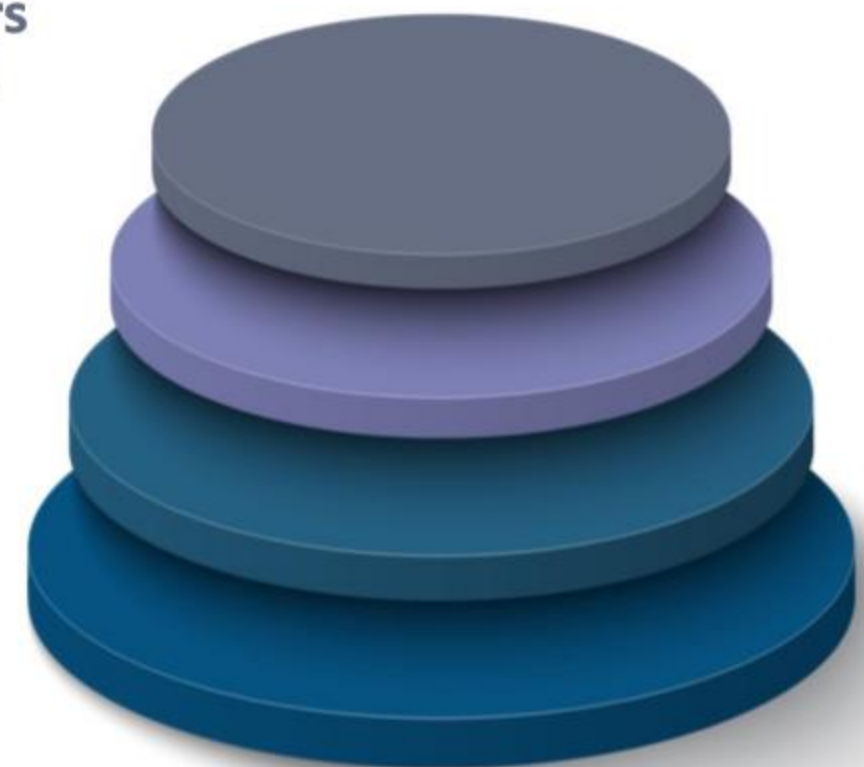
Outbreak

- In the event of an outbreak (≥ 3 cases within any group, e.g., class, team) – all group members should be quarantined for 14 days
- Closure of School Building (or School)
  - Difficult to create hard and fast rules
  - Evidence of uncontrolled spread in the school is a good indicator that building closure might be prudent
  - Triggers might include
    - Multiple simultaneous outbreaks or affected groups (i.e., ≥ 3 separate groups impacted)
    - Pre-set % of students or staff (exceeding normal school absences)
    - Difficulty conducting education work due to student or staff absences
- Re-opening – minimum 14 days appropriate

Layering Mitigation Strategies

1 Promoting Behaviors that Reduce Spread

2 Maintaining Healthy Environments



3 Maintaining Healthy Operations

4 Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick

Use multiple strategies to more effectively reduce the spread of COVID-19

Bridge Magazine, April 29, 2020: https://www.bridgemi.com/guest-commentary/opinion-stacking-best-practices-help-michiganders-safely-return-work

Levels of Risk

- Lowest Risk:
  - Virtual-only classes, activities, and events
- More Risk:
  - Small in-person classes, activities, and events
  - Groups stay together, remain at least 6 feet apart, and do not share objects
- Highest Risk:
  - Full sized in-person classes, activities, and events
  - Individuals are not spaced apart, items are shared, groups are mixed

Promoting Behaviors that Reduce Spread

- Educate staff, students, and families about when to stay home
- Teach and reinforce healthy hygiene, like frequent hand washing and covering coughs and sneezes
- Ensure adequate supplies to ensure healthy hygiene behaviors
- Teach and reinforce the use of cloth face coverings
- Post signs and make announcements that promote everyday protective measures and describe how to stop the spread of germs

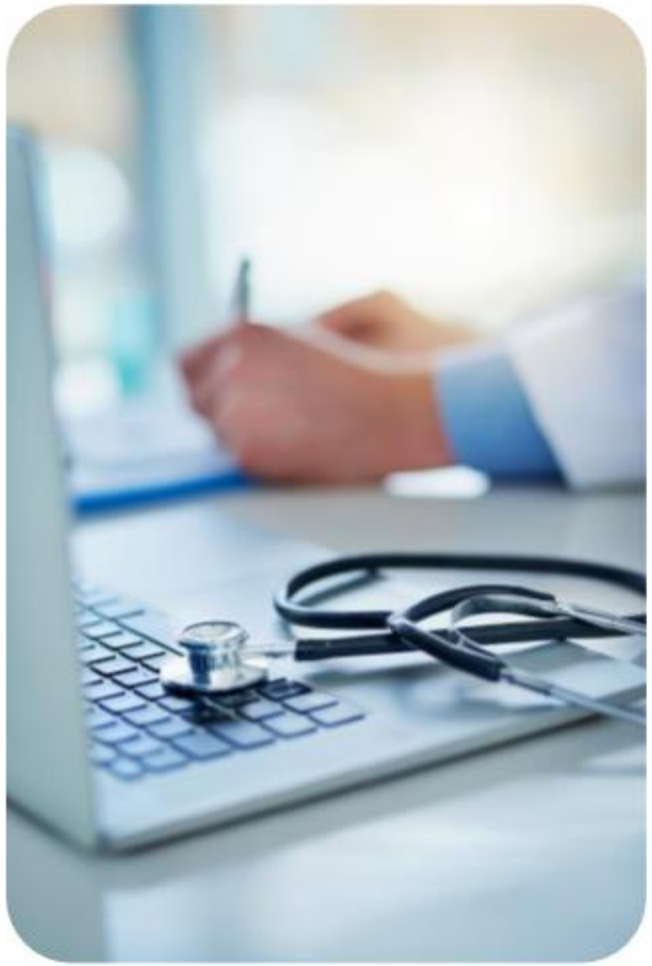
Maintaining Healthy Environments

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces
- Discourage sharing of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect
- Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible
- Consider modifying layouts of seating/desks
- Provide physical guides to promote physical distancing
- Consider closing communal spaces
- Consider alternative options for food service

Maintaining Healthy Operations

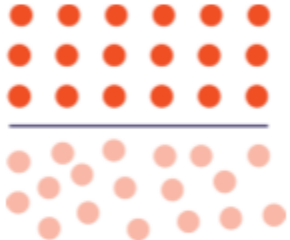
- Consider offering options for staff or students at higher risk for severe illness
- Pursue virtual group events, gatherings, meetings, and field trips
- Identify small groups and keep them together
- Stagger scheduling
- Designate a COVID-19 Point of Contact
- Implement flexible sick leave and excused absence policies and practices
- Recognize signs and symptoms
- Support coping and resilience

Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick



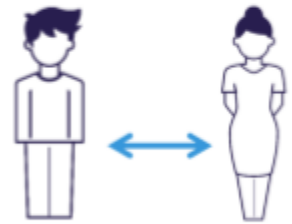
- Educate staff, students, and families about when to stay home
- identify an isolation room or area to separate anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms or tests positive but does not have symptoms
- Immediately separate staff and children with COVID-19 symptoms at school
- Establish procedures for safely transporting anyone who is sick to their home or to a healthcare facility
- Clean and disinfect
- Notify local health officials, staff, and families

7 Characteristics of a Situation

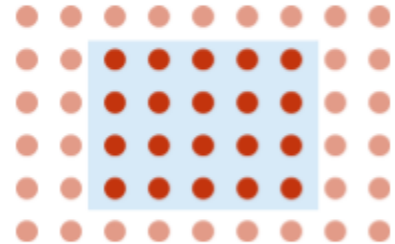


Movement

Duration



Proximity



Group Size

Respiratory Output

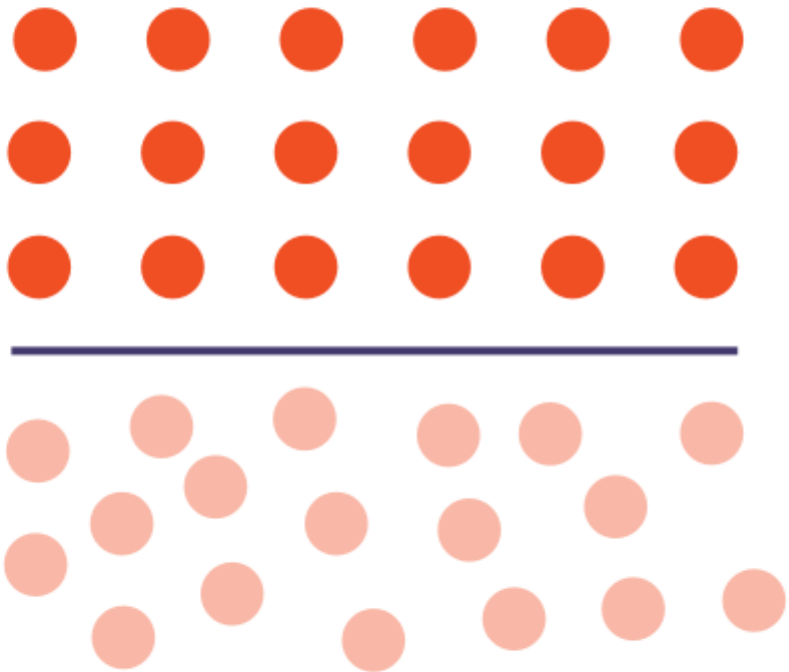
Touch

Congestion

Situational Characteristics

Movement: How do people move around in the space?

Directed
(lower risk)



Undirected
(higher risk)

Situational Characteristics

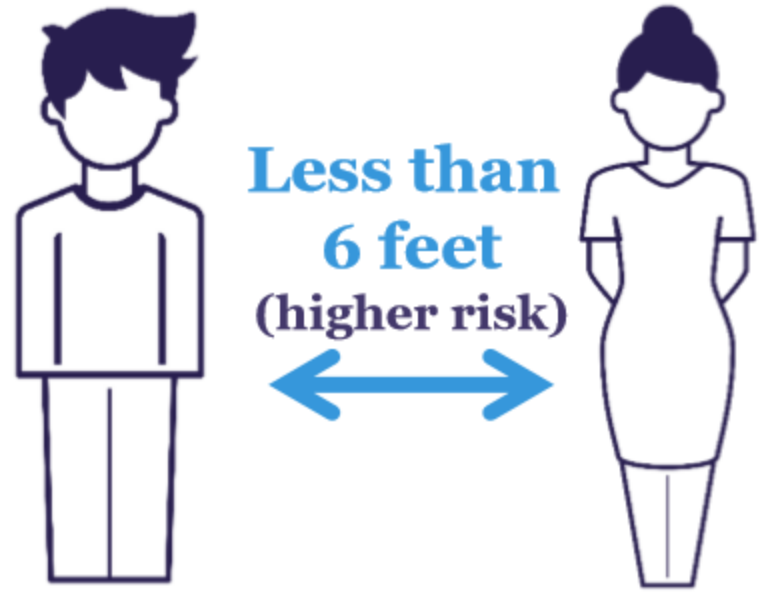
Duration: How long are people in this space?

More than 15 minutes
(higher risk)

Less than 15 minutes
(lower risk)

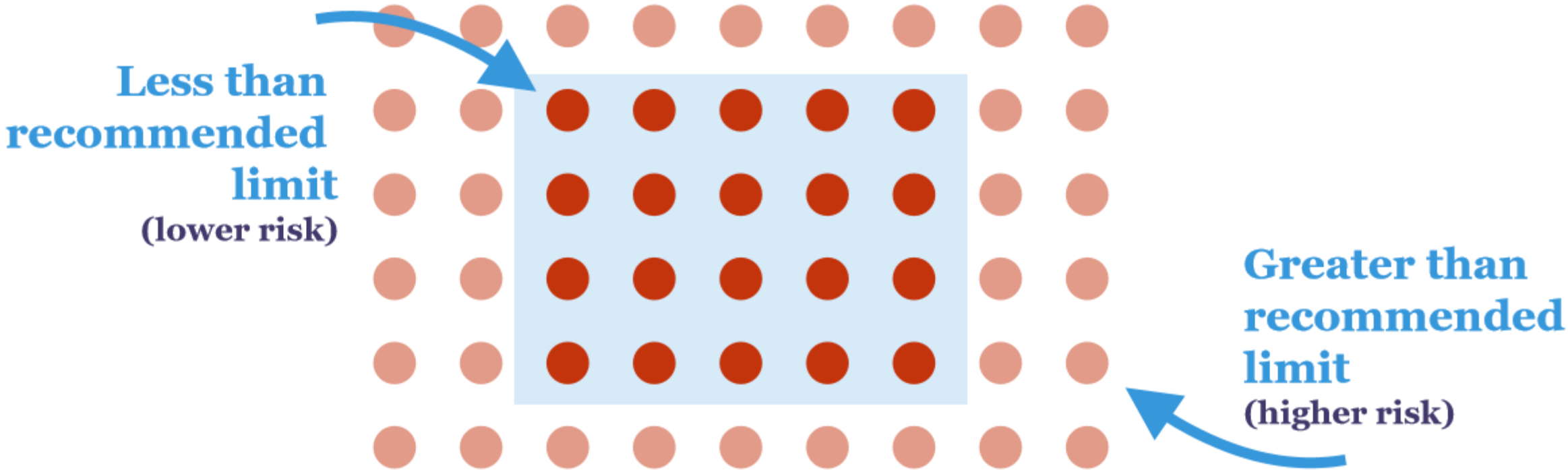
Situational Characteristics

Proximity: How close together are people in this space?



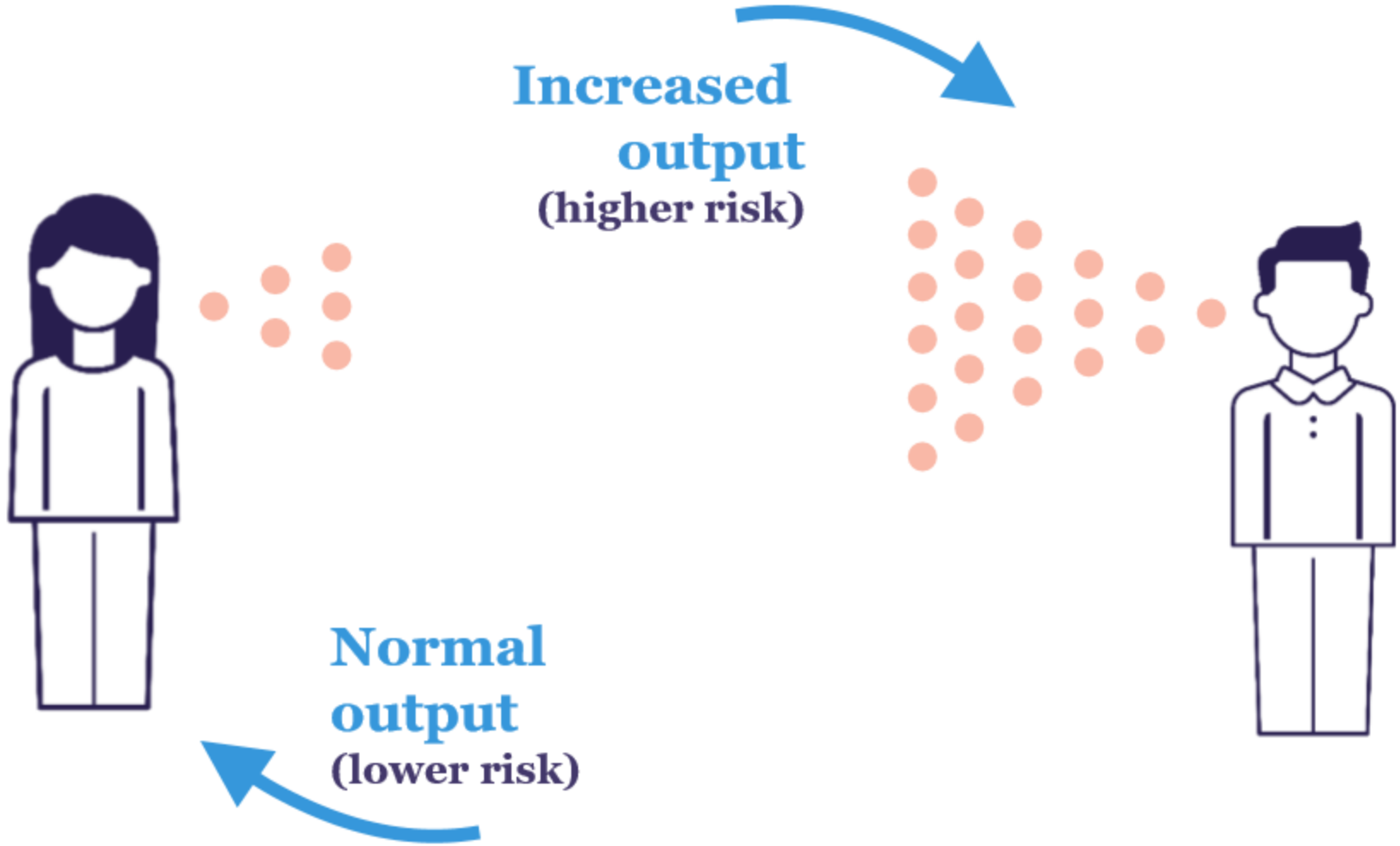
Situational Characteristics

Group Size: How many people are in the space?



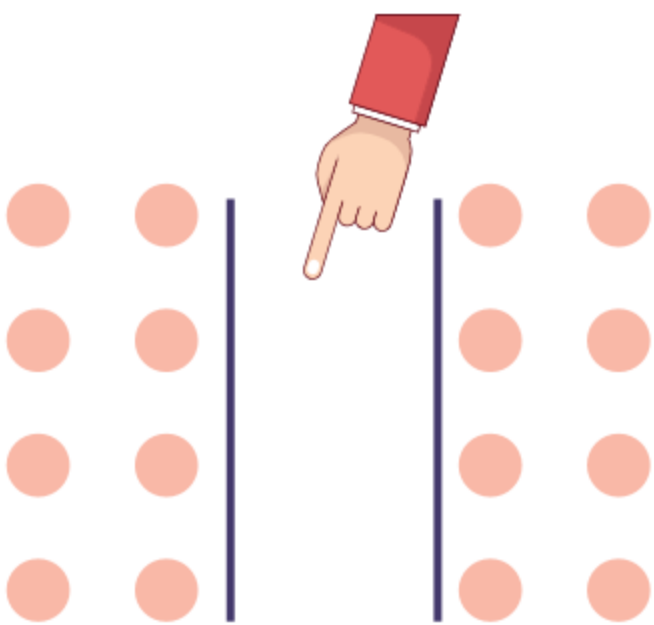
Situational Characteristics

Respiratory Output: How are people breathing in the space?



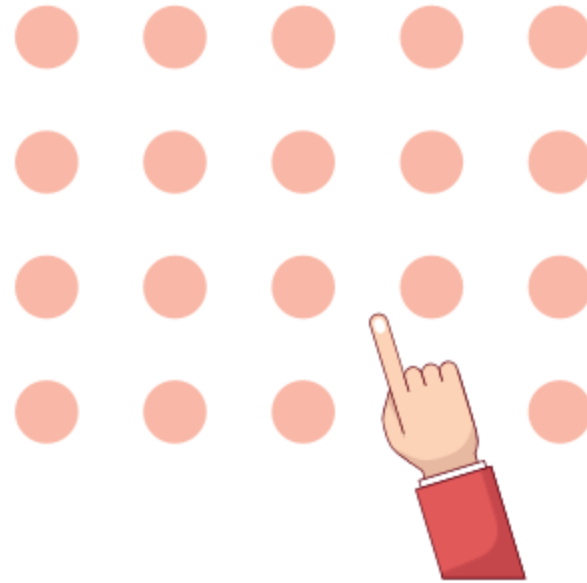
Situational Characteristics

Touch: How do people engage with objects or fixtures in the space?



Low touch
(lower risk)

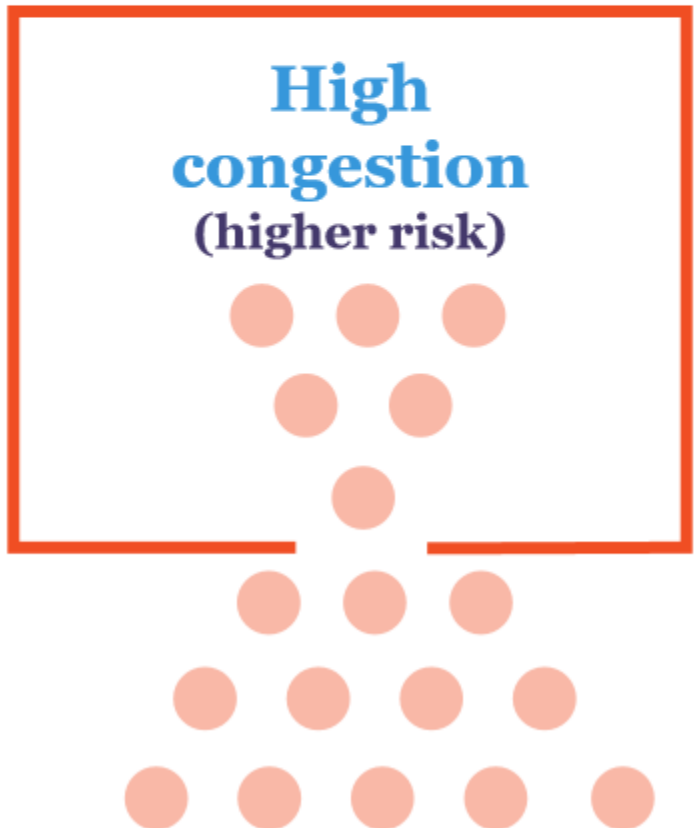
High touch
(higher risk)



Situational Characteristics

Congestion: Are there points of high congestion?

Low congestion
(lower risk)



High congestion
(higher risk)

CDC Foundation

IN COLLABORATION WITH LEAVITT PARTNERS

Decision Matrix

Factor	Lower Risk	Higher Risk	Mitigation Strategies
Proximity	> 6 feet	< 6 feet	
Duration	< 15 minutes	> 15 minutes	
Group Size	< 10	> 10	
Congestion	Low	High	
Movement	Directed	Undirected	
Touch	Low	High	
Respiratory Output	Normal	Increased	

*Does the event or activity put the broader population at risk

Proximity	**How close together are people in this space?**
> 6 Feet	It is possible, either naturally or with minimal interventions, to maintain a 6-foot distance
< 6 Feet	It is not possible to maintain a 6- foot distance; the activity cannot be done if social distance is maintained
Duration	**How long are people in this space?**
<15 minutes	Less than 15 minutes is typically spent in the space
>15 minutes	More than 15 minutes is typically spent in the space
Group Size	**Who is in the space?**
<Recommended Limit	A small group of people, mostly part of the same social circle
>Recommended Limit	A large group of people from different households and social circles
Congestion	**Are there points of high congestion?**
Low	The design of the space and activity do not result in congregations of people (e.g. entry points, lines, security, etc.)
High	Because of the design of the space or the nature of the activity, people must gather closely together at times
Movement	**How do people move around in the space?**
Directed	Movement is restrained or highly controlled, people are confined to a specific area, not much intermingling
Undirected	Movement is unrestrained or uncontrolled, people can wander in the space, there is intermingling
Touch	**How do people engage with objects or fixtures in the space?**
Low	People do not interact much with each other or with objects in the space
High	People frequently interact with each other or touch objects in the space
Respiratory Output	**How are people breathing in the space?**
Normal	People are breathing normally, low respiratory output
Increased	People are breathing heavily, from exercising, laughing, cheering, singing etc.

Procedure

Step 1: Identify the event or activity you wish to analyze

Ex: Classrooms, changing classes, meals, choirs, sports practice and/or games, transportation

Step 2: Complete the risk matrix assignment for each risk factor

See Matrix

Step 3: Identify if the broader population is at risk vs. individual or small group

Step 4: Identify mitigation strategies

Brainstorm as many mitigation strategies as possible in each area. Many ideas can be found on various education websites. General examples:

- Proximity- Increase distance; wear cloth face coverings; hold activities outdoors
- Duration- Limit duration
- Group Size- Break into smaller groups; keep groups cohorted together without intermingling; limit spectators
- Congestion- Stagger entry and exit; hold activities outdoors
- Movement- Place directional guides in entrances and hallways
- Touch- Limit sharing of items; hand hygiene
- Respiratory Output- Avoid singing or shouting in activities as possible

Be innovative and specific.

Step 5: Make a determination if the activity is allowable or requires additional modification

Is the risk high for >2 elements?

Are the mitigation steps adequate?

Is there risk to the entire student body?

Does the educational value of the activity justify the risk?

Example: High School Show Choir

Factor	Lower Risk	Higher Risk	Mitigation Strategies
Proximity	> 6 feet	< 6 feet	Wear masks Increase distance
Duration	< 15 minutes	> 15 minutes	Limit duration
Group Size	< 10	> 10	Smaller choirs Limit spectators
Congestion	Low	High	Ensure staggered entry and exit
Movement	Directed	Undirected	Conduct orderly flow
Touch	Low	High	Hand hygiene
Respiratory Output	Normal	Increased	Cannot be mitigated

*Does the event or activity put the broader population at risk

Procedure

- Step 1: Identify the event or activity you wish to analyze
  - Show Choir
- Step 2: Complete the risk matrix assignment for each risk factor
  - See Matrix
- Step 3: Identify if broader population at risk vs. individual or small group
  - No (example of yes would be football game with large number of students – putting entire student body at risk of exposure)
- Step 4: Identify mitigation strategies
  - See Matrix
- Step 5: Make a determination if the activity is allowable or requires additional modification

Step 5 (Just an Example – not a real determination)

- Is the risk high (> 2 elements)
  - YES
- Are the mitigation steps adequate
  - NO
- Is there risk to the entire student body
  - NO
- Does the educational value of the activity justify the risk
  - NO

Additional Considerations

- What is the COVID-19 activity locally?
- What would trigger a discontinuation of the activity?
  - Increasing community spread?
  - Increased cases in the school?
- Proper documentation in the event an outbreak (to identify those in need of quarantine or testing)

Decision

- Due to the high risk of COVID-19 transmission at Show Choir, there will be no group practice or competition for the first semester of 2020-2021 school year.
- A determination will be made prior to Spring whether or not Show Choir may begin in the second semester.

Issues Benefiting from Standardization