



Get The Facts CORONAVIRUS & SCHOOLS

THE REOPEN SCHOOLS PROJECT AT REOPEN MARYLAND



The evidence for widespread school closure for COVID-19 is "very weak." Children are at very low risk for becoming ill or spreading COVID-19. Child deaths from COVID-19 are "extremely rare;" the odds of a child dying from COVID-19 are about 1 in 1.25 million. A CDC analysis found fewer than 2% of children with COVID-19 needed hospitalization.



The recent CDC recommendations for school reopening raise serious questions about feasibility and developmental appropriateness of socially distanced learning. In reopening, schools and systems must consider the negative impact of proposals such as alternate-day schooling, socially distanced classrooms, and overly restrictive policies that may harm students' well-being and learning.



Remote learning is often less effective than face-to-face learning, especially for students with special education needs, those learning English and those living in poverty. Students may lose up to half a year of learning from Spring 2020 closures. Closures are likely to "exacerbate food insecurity," "widen the learning gap," and impact mental health.



Over 200,000 claims of child abuse may have gone unreported in March and April 2020 due to school closures. School closure for pandemic illness can reduce GDP by over \$100 billion. Closures are likely to place students at risk for dropout, increasing their chances of unemployment and correctional system involvement.

