

# SCHOOLS & UNIVERSITIES



## Building Safe and Healthy Schools and Universities

As academic institutions prepare for an uncertain semester, local and state requirements will mandate re-openings nationwide. In this guide, Bialosky poses considerations and recommendations informed by State of Ohio, the CDC, and trends in educational spaces. Educators, facility directors, university architects, Board of Education members, and parents will find value in this guide as we approach fall.

### Considerations For All Academic Insitutions



#### General Building

- **Install sanitation stations** and/or hand washing in entries of all buildings and classrooms.
- **Switch traditional water fountains** to bottle fillers.
- **Avoid shared materials:** storage, lockers, school supplies, technology, etc.



#### Classrooms

- **Designate entry and exit doors** for classrooms when possible.
- **Redefine extra spaces for additional classrooms** or overflow areas for large groups.
- **Reduce furniture to allow for social distancing,** instead of taping-off areas, to create a more welcoming environment.
- **Orient all desks** and furniture to face the same direction.
- **Add screens or dividers** when distancing is not possible.
- **Increase technology use** to allow for quick access to distance learning, if necessary.
- **Optimize outdoor space for additional classrooms,** or common areas such as dining areas or gymnasiums.



#### Cafeteria and Food Service

- **Establish grab-and-go** meal and/or order ahead policies with contactless points of sale.
- **Promote bring-your-own meals.**
- **Eliminate shared cutlery bins** and buffet-style serving and provide disposable service items, if possible.



#### Circulation

- **Designate one direction stairways and circulation paths** and avoid pinch points and blind corners.
- **Install hands-free door operations** such as foot controls and hold opens.
- **Limit the number of people in elevators.**
- **Add graphics and wayfinding** to communicate new norms.



#### Restrooms

- **Maintain 6'-0" distance** by blocking stalls or sinks.
- **Replace fixtures** with touchless options.
- **Restrict access to air hand dryers** and provide paper towels.

## Questions on adapting your institution?

Published: August 10, 2020  
Resources: [www.bialosky.com/news-ideas](http://www.bialosky.com/news-ideas)



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## Additional Considerations

Bialosky offers more specific considerations based on institution types below. Stay informed with the listed resources, which outline the latest governmental requirements and guidelines.



### K-12

- **Utilize covered queuing** for temperature checks and health assessments in building entries.
- **Keep student-groups together** for classes, eating lunch, and utilize the same restroom to limit exposure.
- **Designate a separate, dedicated area** to quarantine staff and students with symptoms.
- **Add necessary storage** so students have separate space for belongings.



### Higher Education

- **Lower dorm density** whenever possible.
- **Limit shared restrooms.** Private restrooms are ideal.
- **Increased cleaning schedules for dorm rooms** and common areas on campus.
- **Set aside sections of dorms or housing for quarantining students** who have developed symptoms.



### HVAC

- **Review HVAC system operation prior to start of classes.** Pay special attention to the means of ventilation for every occupied space.
- **Consider performing outdoor air flush of building** one week prior to start of classes.
- **Consider increasing ventilation** rates to occupied spaces, if possible.
- **Clean & replace HVAC filters** and increase to a minimum rating of MERV-13 where possible.
- **Consider using portable HEPA filtration units** for classrooms with poor ventilation.



### Resources

- **Ohio Guidelines for Higher Education**  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/Higher-Education.pdf>
- **Ohio Guidelines for K-12**  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/static/responsible/schools/K-12-Schools-Guidance.pdf>
- **CDC Guidelines for Higher Education**  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/index.html>
- **CDC Guidelines for K-12**  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>

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