



Statewide Stay-Home Order Guidance for Schools

March 27, 2020

DATE: March 27, 2020

TO: District Superintendent and Charter School Administrators

FROM: Sherri A. Ybarra, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Statewide Stay-Home Order Guidance for Schools

This guidance is offered to help clarify the statewide [Order to Self-Isolate for the State of Idaho](#) as it pertains to public schools. The pertinent sections of the Order are listed at the end of this email.

There are two additional considerations when interpreting how the Order operationally affects schools: Idaho's local control statutes and the [COVID-19 School Operations Guidance issued by the State Board of Education](#) on March 23. In light of the Order and these additional elements, the State Department of Education recommends:

- During the effective period of the Order to Self-Isolate, school districts and charter schools are encouraged to staff physical facilities as minimally as necessary to serve their communities and the remote-learning needs of students.
- Under circumstances in which individuals are interacting in person outside their residence, individuals should follow these guidelines:
 - Maintain at least six feet from other individuals, wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds as frequently as possible or using hand sanitizer, cover coughs or sneezes, and not shake hands;
 - For people with medical conditions, regardless of age, that put them at higher risk of serious complications should they contract COVID-19, and other than health care workers and other essential providers, avoid leaving their homes to the extent possible;
 - No individual who is sick should go to the workplace or be outside the home except as necessary to seek medical care in accordance with guidance from public health officials.

Pertinent Sections of the Order:

Section 8 (f) – For the purpose of this Order, “Essential Businesses” means:

(xi) Educational institutions – including public and private K-12 schools, colleges and universities – for purposes of facilitating distance learning or performing essential functions, provided that social distancing of six-feet per person is maintained to the greatest extent possible;

Section 8 (g) – For the purposes of this Order, “Minimum Basic Operations” include the following, provided that employees comply with Social Distancing Requirements as defined [in] this Section, to the extent possible, while carrying out such operations:

(i) The minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business’s inventory, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or for related functions.

(ii) The minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees of the business being able to continue to work remotely from their residences.

Section 8 (h) – For the purposes of this Order, “Essential Travel” includes travel for any of the following purposes. Individuals engaged in any Essential Travel must comply with all Social Distancing Requirements as defined in Section 8(j).

(iii) Travel to or from educational institutions for purposes of receiving materials for distance learning, for receiving meals, and any other related services.