

Schools Reopening

ANH-Intl proposed school reopening strategies



Staged

Stage the opening of schools starting with the youngest kids who have least risk from the coronavirus – the kindergartens and primary schools – first, as well as smaller schools.



Temperature

Infra-red temperature recording at least twice a day at school (e.g. start and finish). everyone feel safer if we know that all the kids coming into the school gate don't have one of the main symptoms of infection in kids – fever.

Handwashing

Regular, supervised handwashing with regular soap. Regular handwashing has obviously got to be on the agenda. But that doesn't mean over doing it or using toxic antibacterial agents that damage kids' sensitive skins or give them rashes and other dermatological problems.



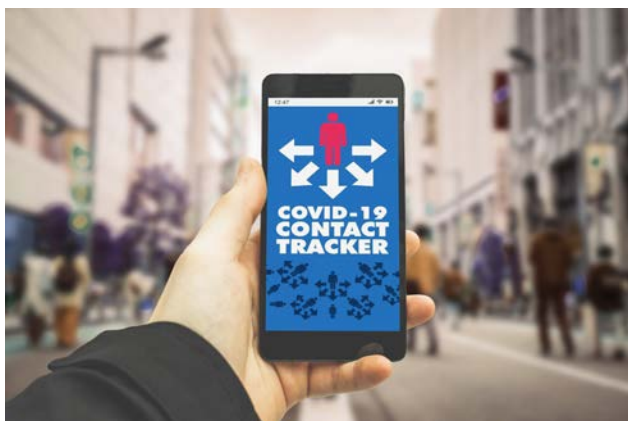
Test, Track, Trace

Test, track and tracing system must be in place. Knowing you've had the infection in the past – or not as the case may be – is really important to getting people back to work – as well as building confidence.



Quarantine

Quarantining following identified cases and exposures. quarantining the small number of people who might initiate further transmission in the community is way preferable to locking down the whole of society or disadvantaging those kids who don't have the space or environment to work effectively from home.





Testing

Antibody testing offered to staff who have previously experienced Covid-like symptoms. Knowing you've had the infection in the past – or not as the case may be – is really important to getting people back to work – as well as building confidence.

No Distancing

No distancing in classes, but additional time spent outdoors (normal activities). The risks to kids themselves are comparable or even less than other respiratory viruses for which we haven't enforced social distancing or school closures. If you're going to implement social distancing and put pupils into bubbles, force them to sit 2 metres apart in classrooms and avoid any form of contact – there has to be a very good scientific reason to do this. Those reasons simply don't exist.



Vulnerable staff

Antibody testing offered to staff who have previously experienced Covid-like symptoms. If we have shielding for vulnerable staff members in place the risk to adults can quite easily be mitigated without massive disruption to the kids themselves.

Masks

Mask use by staff optional, although visors that don't interfere with non-verbal communication are preferable. It should be optional not compulsory. Visors make a whole lot more sense than masks especially around young children if some kind of transmission protection is considered necessary given the most common form of transmission involves droplets from spluttering as people speak with each other.



Immune Resilience

Advice given to parents on maintaining or improving immune resilience. Helping kids to reduce any excess weight, to be very active, spending lots of time outdoors getting themselves in the dirt so they can develop their all-important external and internal microbiomes, eating balanced, varied healthy nutrient-dense diets along the lines of our Food4Health guide, taking additional vitamin D if they're not in the sun, keeping vitamin C, zinc and other nutrients topped up, all of it is crucial.

