

FAQ for Teachers

Q: What can teachers do to protect themselves and their students?

Teachers and students are in close contact for much of the day, and schools can become a place where respiratory diseases like COVID-19 can quickly spread.

- Teachers should wear masks and could use those with a clear plastic cut out in the center for young children or children who have hearing loss to be able to see their mouths when they speak. An alternative to this style of mask would be a face shield that fits closely on the sides with a hood or drape to prevent escape of aerosols beneath the shield.
- You should also plan to stay home if you have symptoms of COVID-19 like fever, cough, or shortness of breath.
- Encourage parents to keep students at home if they're sick.
- Consider social distancing strategies, such as modifying classes where students are likely to be in very close contact; increasing space between desks; and allowing students to eat meals in the classroom.
 - Physical distancing of 6 feet between individuals (between students, and between students and teachers) in classrooms, and other locations around the school, is recommended based on recommendations from CDC, TDH and the Shelby County Health Department.

Q: How should I talk to my students about COVID-19?

As public conversations around COVID-19 increase, children may worry about themselves, their family, and friends getting ill with COVID-19. Teachers can play an important role in helping children make sense of what they hear in a way that is honest, accurate, and minimizes anxiety or fear. CDC has created guidance to help adults have conversations with children about COVID-19 and ways they can avoid getting and spreading the disease.