



# Memo

**To:** Approved Facility Schools  
**From:** Office of Facility Schools, CDE  
**Date:** April 29, 2020  
**Re:** Safer at Home Guidance

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The Office of Facility Schools is notifying approved facility schools that while it would be prudent to continue remote learning through the completion of the 2019-20 academic year, in-person small group instruction and treatment may resume at any time upon approval by the local county department of health. See [Executive Order D 2020 - 041](#), pages 2-3. In order to provide in-person small group instruction, treatment, and services, per the [Safer At Home guidance](#), facility schools must **obtain approval from their local county departments of health** and should also notify their licensing contact at CDHS. Social distancing and all other applicable CDC and public health order guidance must be followed.

To be clear: a facility school is not required to resume in-person instruction and services now, but it has the option of doing so if the local department of health approves of its plan. Whether to continue remote learning or return to some in-person instruction and services is up to the facility school, its parent company, and its local health department.

**The Office of Facility School's recommendation:** In order to meet the many different health and safety requirements and taking into account logistical obstacles to meeting in-person this spring, the Office of Facility Schools recommends that facility schools continue their current practices--especially remote learning--through the end of the 2019-20 academic year. Facilities can use this time to:

- maintain remote learning and therapy for all day treatment students, to avoid multiple transitions in a short amount of time;
- ensure that all buildings and classrooms meet the new health and safety requirements;
- contact parents and school districts to verify which students may attend in-person; learning and therapy, and those continuing remote learning and therapy for the summer;
- allow teachers time to prepare for both in-person and remote learning for the summer;
- communicate with school districts to determine transportation, funding, and summer programming; and
- consider staggering student schedules and services by time, days of the week, etc. when facilities reopen for in-person instruction.

The Office of Facility Schools encourages facility schools to consider all appropriate options in providing instruction, therapy, and related services this summer. The Colorado Department of

Education is developing guidance for schools to utilize in planning for summer instruction and programming, which will be released soon. There is also Safer At Home guidance [specific to schools](#) that will be helpful in planning and transitioning to in-person services.

**Please note** that the governor issues executive orders in 30-day increments, and the current order(s) can be rescinded or amended at any time if the pandemic warrants it.

All residential sites will continue to serve all of their students in-person as required. Continue practicing all of the health and social distancing protocols advised by the CDC and CDHS.

Sarah Blumenthal - Colorado Department of Education State Nurse has provided the following information and resources:

1. CDPHE Safer at Home: P-12 Guidance
  - Simple, succinct, easy to understand
  - This document also has a link showing how to conduct employee screenings <https://covid19.colorado.gov/symptom-screening>
  - Mask guidance during “Safer at Home” <https://covid19.colorado.gov/mask-guidance>
  - There isn’t specific guidance for children wearing masks during “Safer at Home”. Masks for Child Care during COVID-19 has guidance that could apply for those small group instruction sessions <https://covid19.colorado.gov/sites/covid19/files/COVID-19%20Face%20Covering%20Guidance%20for%20Child%20Care%20Operations%20%281%29.pdf>
  - This is written in the guidance, but I wanted to call this out specifically about children with underlying health conditions: **Keep children with underlying health conditions home if possible and avoid coming to school buildings**
2. It’s important that each facility works directly with their Local Public Health Agency to determine safe protocols.
  - Some counties may have tighter restrictions and still practicing the “Safer at Home” phase
  - Some areas may be considered “hot spots” and Local Public Health will need to provide specific guidance unique to those areas
  - <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/find-your-local-public-health-agency>

\*\*\*CDC website guidance

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools.html>

Reference [Executive Order D 2020 - 041](#)

Reference [Public Health Order 20-28](#) Safer at Home

Reference [Education guidance](#) specifically for Safer at Home

CDE summer school guidance document - to be released soon