

Tips for Implementing School Health Screening During COVID-19



The purpose of this document is to provide general recommendations for student and staff safety as schools make plans to conduct the required school health screenings for hearing, vision, dental and height and weight.

- Find the full text of the school health screening rules and regulations here: Title 173 Chapter 7 [https://www.nebraska.gov/rules-and-regs/regsearch/Rules/Health and Human Services System/Title-173/Chapter-07.pdf](https://www.nebraska.gov/rules-and-regs/regsearch/Rules/Health%20and%20Human%20Services%20System/Title-173/Chapter-07.pdf)



• **Students:**

- Hand hygiene: Have students wash hands or use hand sanitizer prior to screening.
- Cloth face coverings: Students who are able to wear cloth face coverings should do so for screening.
- Symptom screening: Consider conducting temperature checks and asking students about symptoms and exposure before being screened.

Nurses and Other Screeners:

- Hand hygiene: Wash hands frequently or sanitize them frequently.
- PPE: School Nurses may order supplies through the [PPE Request Form](#)
 - Height/weight, hearing, and vision screening: Screener should wear a surgical mask. Gloves and eye protection are considered optional but may be used. Wearing a face shield in addition to a mask is recommended when screening students that cannot wear a cloth face covering.
 - Dental screening: Screener should wear gloves, surgical mask, and eye protection (safety glasses or face shield).
- Symptom screening: School staff should consider doing temperature checks and asking about symptoms and exposure for partners or volunteers doing school health screening.

Cleaning and Disinfecting:

- Surfaces in direct contact with students should be disinfected between uses.
- Consult the manufacturer's directions for the best solutions for cleaning and disinfecting screening equipment. Any EPA-registered disinfectant is acceptable however, know the contact time needed for proper disinfection. Considerations should be made to use disinfectants that are [safer for students with asthma](#), such as using hydrogen peroxide or alcohol wipes rather than bleach.
- Disposable eye occluders may be used for vision screening. Disposable earpiece/headphone covers may be used for hearing screening. For weight screening, students should take their shoes off. Consider having each student place a paper towel on the scale before stepping on.

Spacing, Environment, and Other Infection Control Tips:

- Schools may choose to screen smaller groups of students and space them throughout the year (screenings can be done at any time during the school year).
- Conduct screenings in a space large enough to accommodate physical distancing, is well ventilated, and has not been occupied by any sick student or staff.
- Rooms where screenings are conducted should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before and after use.
- Use rooms with a separate entrance and exit when possible.
- Screenings can be conducted in the classroom so the students stay in place.
- For dental screenings, team a screener with a person to record results.
- Height/weight and dental screening may be conducted outside. Vision screening may be conducted outside out of direct sunlight. Hearing screening should not be conducted outside.
- Document the date, time, and location where screenings occur.

Reminders:

- Screening results may be taken from physical examination, visual evaluation, or dental examination reports if equivalent screening results are available and documented.
- The student may be excused from hearing, vision, and/or dental screening if the parent brings a signed statement from a physician, PA, or APRN stating that the child has had these screenings done in the past 6 months. Parents may refuse height and weight screening if they bring in a signed and dated statement of refusal (this must be done annually).
- Students opting for year-long remote learning still need to comply with screening regulations. They either need to come to school for screening or have a signed statement (see above).



Further Information:

- AAPOS: [Pediatric Vision Screening Guidance during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- ASHA Audiology: [Infection Prevention and Control for Audiology Equipment](#)
- ASTDD: [School Nurses The Key to Good Oral Health During COVID-19](#)
- ASTDD/NASN: [Considerations for School Nurses in Return to School: Dental Screening](#)
- CDC: [Hand Hygiene in Schools](#)
- CDC: [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)
- CDC: [Project Firstline](#) (training for healthcare infection control)
- EPA: [List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2](#)
- NASN: [PPE requirements for school nurses/health professionals](#)
- Prevent Blindness: [Considerations for Children's Vision Screening Programs During the Covid-19 Pandemic](#)



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