



Caribbean
Public Health
Agency

CARPHA

Preventing disease
Promoting and protecting health

Health and Safety Considerations for Retuning to School

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Role of CARPHA

- Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) plays an important role of providing evidence-based guidance to our member states to assist them with protocols to guide their preparedness and response.
- As we begin to plan for the re-opening of schools, there are some fundamental health and safety considerations that must be included in the planning process.

Aim:
Ensuring
students,
teachers and
staff remain
safe at
school.

- Premises and facilities are regularly cleaned and disinfected
- Facilities and supplies for hygiene practices are adequate
- Safe distance can be maintained between students and teachers
- Procedures to identify unwell students, staff and teachers
- Health advice followed by unwell students, staff and teachers
- Assessing the role of class suspension and/or school closure.

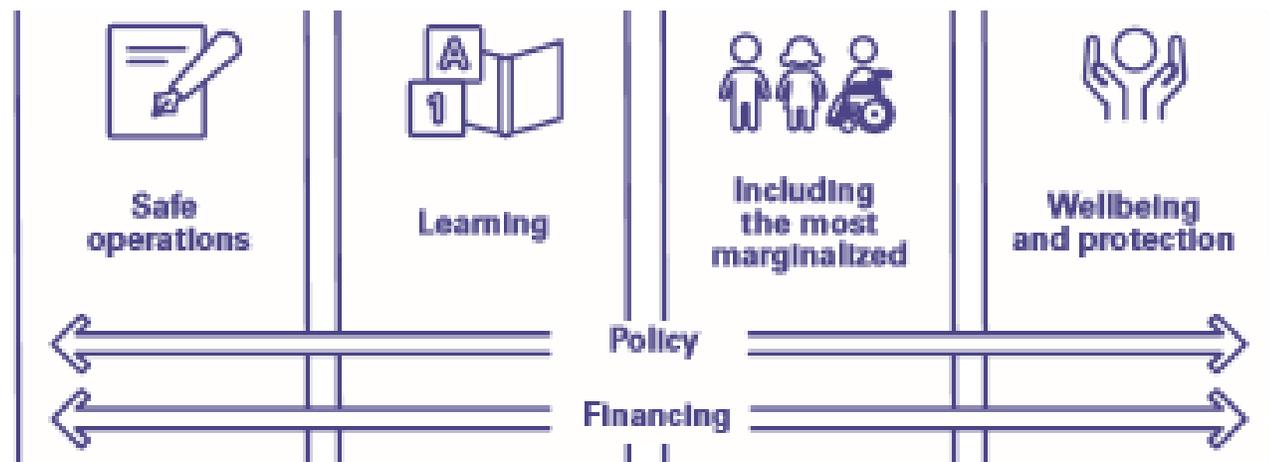


Photo credits: UNICEF Framework for reopening schools

Key considerations for Health and Safety

School openings can also be staged – for example, they could initially be limited to a few days of the week, or only apply to certain grades or levels.

Develop clear and easy-to-understand protocols on physical distancing measures

Implement policies to protect staff and students who are at high risk due to age or underlying medical conditions

Develop detailed protocols on hygiene measures, including handwashing, respiratory etiquette, use of protective equipment, cleaning procedures and food safety

Revise policies and procedures for using school facilities during emergencies (as shelters, health facilities, quarantine locations, etc.)

CARPHA Resources Available for Schools

- [Use of Face Mask](#)
- [Water Sanitation and Hygiene Guidelines](#)
- Links to Public Education Resources
<https://www.carpha.org/What-We-Do/Public-Health/Novel-Coronavirus>
- Links to Media
<https://www.carpha.org/More/Media/Articles>
- Links to Videos
<https://www.youtube.com/user/CARPHACampus>

Wearing face masks in public may help to limit the spread of COVID-19. Face masks help to reduce the release of tiny droplets from the nose or mouth of persons infected with the coronavirus.



[International Protocols](#)

<https://www.who.int/publications-detail/considerations-for-school-related-public-health-measures-in-the-context-of-covid-19>
https://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/reducing_transmission_h1n1_2009.pdf

Unesco Framework for Reopening Schools here:

<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000373348>

Manage the Psychosocial and Mental Health of Students

Dear Editor,

...“Finally, I wish to speak about COVID-19. This pandemic is a greater threat than it ever has been. As at writing, there have been over 4.3 million confirmed cases worldwide. Regionally, Trinidad and Tobago has 116 cases. Barbados has 84, Guyana has 113, and Jamaica weighs in with a whopping 507. We do not have a vaccine. Research has shown that we do not even have a lengthy period of herd immunity. **The only strategy that has been shown to work is quarantining and contact tracing those that do have the virus. I do not know if CXC reviews the graphs showing the progress of this disease, but I do, daily. I have no less than 6 graph tracking sites open as I write this letter.** CXC has slated exams for July. That would mean breaking, or ending lockdown and returning to school to write exams. I also do not know what data this timeframe is based upon, but it cannot be the same graphs that I am looking at here on my desktop, because according to this, Jamaica has seen exponential growth in its number of cases, and Guyana is increasing fast. **The numbers only increase. And yet, CXC would have us return to normalcy. That is folly,** that is fallacy and is pure (for want of a better word) dotishness! **CXC wishes us to risk our health, our very being, for an exam** that is not only questionable, but devoid of structure and credibility.”



Full article here: <https://www.kaieteurnews.com/2020/05/14/i-beg-cxc-to-reconsider-its-proposal/>