



Speaker Notes: COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control in Schools

UDOH Healthcare Associated Infections/Antibiotic Resistance Program

Slide 1 – Title slide/Introduction

In Utah, we consider the education sector critical to the long-term health and economic success of our state. This includes: students, teachers, employees, paraprofessionals, school nurses and volunteers.

Slide 2 – Schools can be instrumental in keeping their communities healthy

Schools engage and encourage everyone in the school and the community to practice preventive behaviors. These are the most important actions that will support schools' safe reopening and will help them stay open. This influence at schools can be continued as students, teachers and employees enter the community and exhibit these preventative behaviors which in turn benefits not only the schools, but the community as well.

Slide 3 – Learning objectives

No notes. Read contents on slide.

Slide 4 – Learning objectives

Read contents on slide.

Utah's COVID-19 School Manual can be found at <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/>.

Direct link at https://coronavirus-download.utah.gov/School/COVID-19_School_Manual_FINAL.pdf.

Each school district has a return to school plan and can be found on each of their websites. All of the 13 local health departments have websites with contact information (<https://ualhd.org/>). There are laws that protect the privacy of students, teachers, and employees. Schools are responsible to work with their legal counsel to understand these laws and how they apply during the COVID-19 pandemic. Schools must follow all regulatory requirements and governing structures that apply to an educational setting. Some of these laws may include:

- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
- Utah Code Annotated § 53E-9-101 et seq., Student Privacy and Data Protection
- State and federal labor laws.

Slide 5 – COVID-19 Situation updates

Situation updates help everyone stay current on State, U.S. and Global COVID-19 rates and spread and enable decision makers make informed decisions based on real time data.

Slide 6 – COVID-19 Disease overview

On February 11, 2020, the World Health Organization announced an official name for the disease that is causing the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak, first identified in Wuhan China. The new name of this disease is coronavirus disease 2019, abbreviated as COVID-19. In COVID-19, 'CO' stands for 'corona,' 'VI' for 'virus,' and 'D' for disease. Formerly, this disease was referred to as "2019 novel coronavirus" or "2019-nCoV." There are many types of

human coronaviruses including some that commonly cause mild upper-respiratory tract illnesses. COVID-19 is a new disease, caused by a novel (or new) coronavirus that has not previously been seen in humans.

Slide 7 – What is COVID-19?

Read contents on slide.

The novel coronavirus is a new coronavirus that has not been previously identified. The virus causing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), is not the same as the coronaviruses that commonly circulate among humans and cause mild illness, like the common cold.

Slide 8 – How is COVID-19 spread?

COVID-19 is spread through large droplets that are released by infected people when they cough, sneeze, or any other occurrence, such as singing, that might release droplets. The virus also may be spread by people who come in contact with a surface or object contaminated with COVID-19 and then touch their own mouth, nose, or eyes.

Slide 9 – Symptoms of COVID-19

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of reported symptoms – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Symptoms can include:

- Fever or chills
- New cough
- Shortness of breath
- Decrease in sense of smell or taste
- Sore throat
- Muscle aches and pains

Other symptoms may include:

- Headache
- Congestion or runny noses
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Fatigue

Students, teachers, or employees who have any of the first six symptoms of COVID-19 listed are eligible for testing and should call a healthcare provider or testing site to get tested for COVID-19, even if the symptoms are mild. Testing locations can be found at <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/testing-locations>. Even if they don't have symptoms, students, teachers, and employees need to be very careful and take precautions at school because children and adults may be asymptomatic. This means they have no signs or symptoms of the virus, but can still spread it to others.

Slide 10 – Human reservoirs

As just mentioned, humans can spread COVID-19 without even knowing that they have it. Not all people who test positive for COVID-19 have the same symptoms.

People who have contracted COVID-19 can be contagious 48 hours (2 days) before showing any signs of symptoms of the disease. This is known as being **pre-symptomatic**. Many individuals who have contracted COVID-19 do not have any symptoms and likely will not have any symptoms. This is called **asymptomatic**.

Some individuals who have contracted COVID-19 will show one or more symptoms and likely be very ill. This is called **symptomatic**.

Slide 11 – Good to know

Approximately 80% of all individuals infected with COVID-19 will have NO signs of symptoms. Again, this means that humans can spread the disease without even knowing that they have it. Ten percent (10%) of individuals with COVID-19 will have mild signs or symptoms that may concern them. Often, these symptoms will encourage them to seek testing to verify if they are positive. The last 10% are likely to become severely ill and may require hospitalization. These hospitalizations often require a patient to be put on a ventilator or even experience death.

Slide 12 – How will your school help others cooperate with infection prevention strategies to avoid COVID-19 transmission and outbreaks?

Read contents on slide.

Everyone must help to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our schools. This includes: students, parents, teachers and employees, school administration, point of contact (POC) for your school, health department, and community members.

Slide 13 – Maximize cooperation

Maximize cooperation by students, parents, teachers and all involved to prevent infection transmission in school settings through effective communication, education and compliance monitoring. Provide messages about infection prevention in daily announcements, newsletters, online postings, and other resources.

Implement a plan for how to reopen the school, maintain a safe learning environment and prevent the spread of COVID-19. Share this plan with teachers, parents and students so everyone knows what to expect. Routinely review and update the plan and communicate any updates to school staff and parents as the COVID-19 situation changes.

Provide job or task-specific infection prevention education and training to all school staff, including those employed by outside agencies and available by contract on a volunteer basis in the school. Trainings should focus on school worker and student safety, and should be provided upon orientation and repeated regularly.

Competencies should be documented after initial trainings and repeatedly. For example, safe cleaning and disinfection competencies should be documented for appropriate school staff after initial training and repeated regularly. Compliance to infection prevention strategies should be monitored and guide future communications and education offerings. Contact local health departments for guidance, information and resources.

Slide 14 – How does your school prevent infections when people are in close contact with each other?

Encourage students, employees and volunteers to stay home when they are sick, and educate staff and families about when they/their child(ren) should stay home and when they can return to school.

Slide 15 – Prepare your school

Read contents on slide.

Hierarchy of controls - these are listed from the best ways you can control and stop the spread of COVID-19 to the ways that are least effective. Use a combination of these controls to best protect your school.

- Elimination – physical remove the hazard
- Substitution – replace the hazard
- Engineering Controls – isolate people from the hazard
- Administrative Controls – change the way people work
- PPE – protect the person with personal protective equipment

Slide 16 – Break the chain of infection

Once we understand the “chain of infection,” we can easily recognize infection prevention opportunities in school settings. Two links in the “chain of infection” that can be interrupted are the “mode of transmission” and “susceptible host” links. Infections can be effectively prevented in clean environments where organism load has been reduced. If infection occurs in the school setting, further infections can be prevented through containment measures. Ultimately, effective cooperation from all persons in the school setting will help reduce infection transmission.

Slide 17 – Routinely clean and disinfect

Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (e.g., playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains) within the school and on school buses at least daily or between uses as much as possible. Use of shared objects (e.g., gym or physical education equipment, art supplies, toys, games) should be limited when possible, or cleaned between uses.

If transport vehicles (e.g., buses) are used by the school, drivers should practice all safety actions and protocols as indicated for other staff (e.g., hand hygiene, cloth face coverings). To clean and disinfect school buses or other transport vehicles.

Develop a schedule for increased, routine cleaning and disinfection. Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing products securely away from children. Use products that meet EPA disinfection criteria. Cleaning products should not be used near children, and staff should ensure that there is adequate ventilation when using these products to prevent children or themselves from inhaling toxic fumes.

Shared Objects: Discourage sharing of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect. Keep each child’s belongings separated from others’ and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas. Ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high touch materials to the extent possible (e.g., assigning each student their own art supplies, equipment) or limit use of supplies and equipment by one group of children at a time and clean and disinfect between use. Avoid sharing electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids.

Slide 18 – Cleaning and disinfecting after a positive case of COVID-19

No notes. Read contents on slide.

Slide 19 – Use personal protective equipment (PPE)

Personal protective equipment that can be used in school settings to prevent exposure to infectious organisms includes gloves, gowns, face masks, face shields, goggles, aprons and disposable absorbent pads. Gloves should be worn for any potential contact with another person’s blood, body fluids, mucous membranes, non-intact skin or contaminated equipment. Gloves should be removed, discarded and hand hygiene performed before care is provided for another student. Gloves should not be washed for re-use. Gowns, aprons or absorbent pads can be

used to protect exposure to skin and clothing during procedures or activities where contact with blood or other body fluids is anticipated. The same gown or barrier should not be used for the care of more than one student. Mouth, nose and eye protection should be used during procedures that are likely to generate splashes or spray of blood or other body fluids.

Slide 20 – One wipe – one application

If disinfectant wipes are used, remember to use a separate wipe between areas so that cross-transmission is prevented. “One wipe, one application per surface.” Note the contact time indicated on the disinfectant wipe container. This is the amount of time it takes for the disinfectant to kill any germs present.

Slide 21 – EPA approved disinfectants

Always use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved disinfectants. If you are unsure if the product you are using is effective in killing COVID-19, always utilize the EPA website and search the disinfectant by name to ensure that you are using the appropriate cleaning agent.

Slide 22 – Prevention and containment

Prevention and containment are key to avoiding the spread of COVID-19. Daily monitoring of signs and symptoms of COVID-19 is essential to stopping the spread of COVID-19. Ensure that face coverings cover both mouth and nose. Hand hygiene is the number one way to avoid the spread of infection. Social Distancing will help ensure that droplets are not able to reach others around you. Always stay home when sick. Follow the testing recommendations found in the COVID-19 School Manual found at coronavirus.Utah.gov. Be aware of who your school point of contact (POC) is and report cases and suspect case to your school POC.

Slide 23 – Stay home when sick

Read contents on slide.

Quarantine is for people who may have been exposed to COVID-19, but aren't sick yet. Since symptoms can develop up to 14 days later, exposed people need to watch for symptoms during that time. Isolation is for people who are sick or who have symptoms of COVID-19.

Slide 24 – When a student gets sick at school

Some students may get sick when they are at school. Schools should isolate students who get symptoms of COVID-19 from other students, teachers, and employees. Work with your school nurse to designate the areas you will need to respond appropriately to students who are sick while at school.

Separate students who have symptoms of COVID-19 from other students, teachers, or employees to an isolation area. Call the student's parents and ask them to come pick up their child from school right away. Any rooms the student was in for 15 minutes or more should be cleaned using the cleaning guidelines. Schools will decide which PPE (such as a mask or gloves) employees (paraprofessionals, teacher aides, and school health staff) who help or interact with students who get sick at school need. Employees who come into close contact with sick students should wear the PPE recommended by their school.

Slide 25 – Exclude students according to school district criteria

Students with an active COVID-19 infection should be temporarily excluded (isolated) from school attendance according to the school district's and local health department's criteria.

Slide 26 – Face coverings (masks)

Cloth face coverings are effective at reducing the spread of COVID-19, especially when both people who may come into close contact are wearing a face covering. Mask exemptions are allowed in certain situations where seeing a person's mouth is essential for communication, such as for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing or when students and teachers are participating in speech therapy. For more information, visit https://coronavirus-download.utah.gov/Health/Mask_Order_FAQ.pdf.

Read contents on slide.

Slide 27 – Masking is a smart choice

Play embedded video on making effectiveness.

Everyone should wear a face covering when they are not able to social distance.

Why wear a mask?

The simplest measures can have a great impact in reducing the spread of COVID-19. In addition to hand washing and maintaining physical distancing, several scientific studies found that face coverings and masks are effective in controlling the spread of COVID-19.

Slide 28 – Hand hygiene

Hands should be washed or sanitized frequently. Hands should be cleaned prior to and after providing care to other persons. Hands need to be cleaned after doffing personal protective apparel. Hands should be cleaned upon entering the classroom, before contact with an immunosuppressed person, and especially before and after touching any medical devices, such as tracheostomies or urinary catheters. Hands should also be cleaned before eating, and before, during and after preparing food. Hands should also be cleaned after contact with secretions, wounds, or any person's body fluids.

Slide 29 – Physical distancing

COVID-19 is mainly spread by close contact. Stay at least 6 feet or 2 meters (about 2 arm lengths) from people who do not live in your home as much as possible. This isn't easy in a school setting. If you can't stay 6 feet away from other people, stay as far away as you can. Any distance between you and other people can help.

Slide 30 – Information for parents

Read contents on slide.

If parents do not have a thermometer, they should check their child's skin to see if it feels warm or is red, or ask if he or she have chills or are sweaty.

Slide 31 – Information for parents

No notes. Read contents on slide.

Slide 32 – Information for parents

No notes. Read contents on slide.

Slide 33 – COVID-19 Testing in schools

Read contents on slide.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Utah Department of Health DO NOT recommend testing all students, teachers, and employees at schools. Testing should only be done if students, teachers, and employees have symptoms of COVID-19. Testing may also be done if public health has referred a student, teacher, or employee for testing because they had a close contact exposure to someone who tested positive for COVID-19.

Slide 34 – COVID-19 Testing during school outbreaks

No notes. Read contents on slide.

Slide 35 – COVID-19 School outbreak definitions

Read contents on slide.

Classroom Outbreak: People who are living in the same home are not considered an outbreak. The health department and school will monitor the situation carefully. Extra precautions at the school should be considered to protect others from being infected and an outbreak from occurring. The school should consider notifying parents, teachers, and employees about the situation and ask them to take extra precautions, including checking for symptoms of COVID-19 every day and staying home when sick. The people who tested positive should isolate until they have been fever-free for 24 hours and it has been at least 10 days since they first got sick or tested positive. The people who were exposed should quarantine for 14 days from the last date of exposure.

School Outbreak: People who tested positive should isolate until they have been fever-free for 24 hours and it has been at least 10 days since they first got sick or tested positive. The people who were exposed should quarantine for 14 days from the last date of exposure. No students can go to school for 14 days from the last date of exposure.

Slide 36 – Anticipate a COVID-19 vaccine by summer of 2021

Vaccines for COVID-19 are undergoing clinical trials at this time. Although we are not certain when a vaccine will be available, it is anticipated that a COVID-19 vaccine will be available by summer 2021.

Slide 37 – Infection risks in schools can be effectively decreased by

COVID-19 infection can be reduced and killed from surfaces, objects, and hands if the right products are used correctly. Cleaning and disinfecting can reduce the risk of spreading infection by reducing and killing germs on surfaces people frequently touch.

Vigilant monitoring for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and quarantining those who have been exposed is critical in the containment of this virus. Keeping exposed individuals away from others to ensure they don't develop COVID-19 will help reduce potential spread to others and minimize the spread of the virus. Education is the key in maximizing cooperation by all.

Slide 38 – References

No notes. Read contents on slide.

Slide 39 – Helpful resources

No notes. Read contents on slide.