

In a [letter to school superintendents](#) on February 5, Governor Northam indicated that **all public school districts in Virginia should resume some in-person instruction options by March 15, 2021**, consistent with [guidance](#) from the Department of Education. Research by the CDC shows that in-person schools have not been significant contributors to the transmission of COVID-19 when standard mitigation strategies like masks and physical distancing are used. Although vaccination lowers the risk further, vaccination is not a requirement to resume in-person instruction and is not a substitute for the mitigation strategies used successfully by in-person schools throughout the pandemic.