

## Check emergency equipment before reopening schools

Schools are opening again as students and staff transition from remote to in-person instruction. However, with buildings empty for months, some of the school's emergency supplies may need to be checked and updated. Amid a pandemic, it is imperative for schools to have the proper equipment in case of an emergency. From AEDs to masks, here is an overview of some of the supplies you should check before reopening.

### AEDs



Research has shown that there might be a correlation between COVID-19 and the heart. In some studies, patients who had the virus also experienced heart inflammation. One study, which focused on student athletes at The Ohio State University, showed that many of the athletes who were diagnosed with COVID-19 had symptoms of myocarditis, too. As new information emerges about how the virus impacts overall health, it is important to be prepared in case of a cardiac emergency.

- Verify that the AED batteries are working
- Check the service indicator light
- Check for any wear and tear on the AED
- Ensure that AED pads and accessories are not expired

### Air filtration & filters



Air purification and filtration in schools has been a highly discussed topic, but there are still many questions as to its effectiveness against COVID-19. However, airborne infection is 15-20 times more likely to occur indoors than outdoors. For schools, experts also suggest that stronger filters for existing ventilation systems are a higher priority than providing individual purifiers for each classroom.

- Review any known issues and check for water leaks or mold growth.
- Look for any covered diffusers, closed supply diffusers, blocked return grilles, etc.
- Make sure fans and portable devices are not blowing from one person on to another.
- Operate all HVAC in occupied mode at least one week before reopening if the systems have been shut down

To see a comprehensive guide for how to prepare your ventilation systems, visit the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers to see their [full guidance on reopening schools and universities](#).

## Disposable Products, Disinfectants & PPE



Another major consideration before reopening is the ability to provide PPE for students and staff. According to one estimate from ASBO International, it may cost some districts up to \$148,190 to provide disposable masks for students who do not bring them from home and another \$44,415 for staff. The organization also estimates spending about \$1,440 on gloves for custodians. Besides PPE clothing, it is also important that schools have effective hand sanitizers, disinfectant sprayers, and cleaners. For a more detailed checklist, see the CDC's [Considerations for K-12 Schools](#).

- Replace expired hand sanitizer. Make sure that it has at least 60% alcohol.
- Ensure your school has Electrostatic disinfectant sprayers and effective cleaners
- Have a supply of gloves and masks for students and staff
- Store all cleaning equipment away from children

## Autoinjectors & Inhalers for Allergies



According to the National Association of School Nurses, students may be eating in places other than the cafeteria due to social distancing rules. To avoid anaphylaxis, NASN recommends that students with known allergies always carry their autoinjectors with them, and that those with asthma continue taking their medications.

- Ensure that there is a supply of unexpired epinephrine available
- Have extra syringes
- Have an enough masks and PPE to protect those helping the patient
- Have disposable spacers and rescue inhalers

## Oxygen



Twenty-five percent of 911 emergencies in schools are due to breathing issues. Breathing emergencies can be caused by anxiety attacks, asthma attacks, cardiac arrest, food allergies, and more. With COVID-19, some severe cases of the virus led to patients having problems breathing as well. Therefore, schools should have emergency oxygen, such as Rapid Oxygen, which is portable and non-explosive, making it safe for public spaces.

- Check shelf life of the oxygen if there is a date
- Check condition of disposable oxygen masks, tubing, and other accessories

These are just a few ways schools can be better prepared before students return. For in-depth guides to reopening schools, please visit the CDC, WHO, and other health organizations to find more information to keep your students, staff, and communities safe and healthy.

Visit [schoolhealth.com](https://www.schoolhealth.com) to shop all emergency preparedness equipment and PPE.

## Important Links

<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/air-purifiers-fans-and-filters-a-covid-19-explainer-for-schools/2020/10>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community/School-Admin-K12-readiness-and-planning-tool.pdf>

<https://www.schoolhealth.com/blog/impact-of-covid-19-on-cardiac-health-in-young-people/>

<https://www.ashrae.org/technical-resources/reopening-of-schools-and-universities#background>

[https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/NASN/3870c72d-fff9-4ed7-833f-](https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/NASN/3870c72d-fff9-4ed7-833f-215de278d256/UploadedImages/PDFs/COVID-)  
[215de278d256/UploadedImages/PDFs/COVID-](https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/NASN/3870c72d-fff9-4ed7-833f-215de278d256/UploadedImages/PDFs/COVID-)

[19 Considerations for School Nurses Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis in School during.pdf](https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/NASN/3870c72d-fff9-4ed7-833f-215de278d256/UploadedImages/PDFs/COVID-19%20Considerations%20for%20School%20Nurses%20Food%20Allergy%20and%20Anaphylaxis%20in%20School%20during.pdf)

<https://rapidoxygen.com/>