



BACKGROUND: COVID-19 has been part of everyone's life since mid-March 2020, when most schools, businesses, and communities quickly changed how they operated to prevent the spread of the virus. Nearly 190 million people in the world have been infected by COVID-19, and more than four million people have died. For over a year, many kids attended school from their houses; their parents might've worked from home, too. Now with the vaccines rolling out for everyone, kids are going back to school physically.

(Source: <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/facts-about-coronavirus>)

THE STUDY: Since the start of the pandemic many people are playing it safe by following the CDC guidelines. A new poll commissioned by the American Federation of Teachers and several education groups shows 73% of parents are comfortable with their kids returning to the classroom. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said in March he expects all schools to return to in-person learning this fall, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said in April the country should "anticipate" that "schools should be full-fledged in-person" by September.

(Source: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/melissaholzberg/2021/05/12/parents-are-ready-for-their-kids-to-go-back-to-school-but-covid-infection-fears-remain/?sh=50fe6fb72fa2>)

NEW REGULATIONS: Returning to school has taken on new meaning and a new set of worries for parents and other caregivers during COVID-19. Schools must now balance the educational, social, and emotional needs of their students along with the health and safety of students and staff in the midst of the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. Schools may adopt one or more approaches during the school year and pandemic. Being prepared for a variety of schooling environments can empower you and your child and reduce anxiety. Both parents and teachers need monitor the kids. If they feel sick inform the school or parents, remind them to wash hands and wear face masks. Find out how your school will communicate with families when a positive case or exposure to someone with COVID-19 happens and how they plan to maintain student privacy. At the end of the day be prepared for any situation your kid will be in when they go back to school.

(Source: <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/in-depth/returning-safely-to-school-covid-19/art-20490441>)

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