



Division of Building Safety

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Social Distancing Options: Food Service

- Minimize visitors to the kitchen to only those with essential functions.
- Ensure food service work stations are spaced at least 6-feet apart.
- Disallow food service staff to congregate in break rooms.
- Place lunch tables 6-feet apart.
- Ensure students sit 6-feet away from each other at lunch tables. For example, by blocking off certain seats at each table to ensure spacing.
- Implement strategies to ensure social distancing while in transit to and from the cafeteria. For example, use stickers/decals to designate one-way traffic flows in hallways.
- Have designated and separate entry and exit points to the cafeteria. Consider utilizing more than one designated entry/exit point to minimize concentration of people in high-traffic areas and times.
- To reduce the number of students in the cafeteria:
 - Require students to eat in their classrooms or other designated areas;
 - Encourage students to eat outside or in other areas away from the cafeteria whenever possible, maintaining social distance while doing so;
 - Serve meals outside;
 - Stagger lunch periods (see below);
 - Reduce the number of days students must attend school in-person each week. For example:
 - Institute a block schedule. For example, some students attend school in-person Monday and Tuesday, and the remainder attend school Wednesday and Thursday;
 - Gradually phase students back into in-person school days instead of opening up the entire school for all grades at the start of the year. For example, start the school year by only bringing back one or two grade levels for in-person instruction, while the other grade levels remain in remote learning. Gradually phase back in the other grades as appropriate;
 - Offer students the ability to continue in remote learning only.
- To reduce the number of students congregating around a food service line:
 - Place stickers/decals at 6-foot intervals to ensure students practice social distancing while waiting in line;
 - Segment when certain students/cohorts can be in the food service line (see below);
 - Allow for pre-pay lunch options where students can pick up already paid for food instead of having to wait in line to select, order and pay for food;
 - Encourage students to bring their own lunch;

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- Discontinue self-service food and beverage distribution. For example, do not use buffet-style food service. Instead, consider alternative food service methods, such as delivering individually plated food to students.
- Require students to remain with their cohort during lunch. For example, doing this sequentially by grade by having Kindergarten go to lunch line, then sit at assigned table to eat. At a prescribed time, Kindergarteners go to assigned playground. Grades 1-2 then go to lunch line, sit at assigned table, and then go to assigned playground, etc. Alternatively, have Kindergarteners start out eating lunch in cafeteria at assigned table, while 1-2 start out playing at assigned playgrounds; half-way through lunch period, swap locations, maintaining social distance while in transit.
- Discourage/prohibit mixing of groups. For example, assign seats/areas to individuals or cohorts.

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