

Younger children should attend school when possible: expert committee

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(HealthDay)—Younger children and those with special needs should

attend school in person whenever possible, because online learning is mostly ineffective for these children, according to a committee that advises the United States on science-related issues.

The report from the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine offers advice for [school districts](#) on whether and how to reopen as the coronavirus pandemic rages nationwide.

Committee member Caitlin Rivers, an epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins, said "it should be a priority for districts to reopen for in-person learning, especially for younger ages," *The New York Times* reported.

School reopening precautions recommended by the committee include: [hand washing](#); physical distancing; minimizing group activities, including lunch and recess; having all teachers and staff wear surgical masks during school hours; having all students wear cloth face coverings; and regular symptom and temperature checks.

The committee also said that schools will have to upgrade ventilation and air-filtration systems in the coming years and that those improvements should be funded by federal and state governments, *The Times* reported.

More information: [New York Times Article](#)
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