




MEMORANDUM

To: All Local Health Officers
From: Robert R. Neall, Secretary 
Subject: Blanket Closure of Non-Public Schools in Local Jurisdictions
Date: August 6, 2020

At this time, it is the health policy of the State of Maryland that non-public schools not be closed in a blanket manner. Instead, local health officers are encouraged to use their authority as delegated to them by Governor Hogan's [Executive Order of April 5 \(No. 20-04-05-02\)](#) as well as statutory and regulatory authority, to carefully evaluate the facts and circumstances of each individual school and their proposed COVID-19 response plan.

The State of Maryland's position is that all schools, including public school systems and non-public schools, be provided with the individualized opportunity to determine how they are able to comply with the federal and state COVID-19 guidance to reopen safely and protect students and staff. Those determinations should be made in close consultation with the affected schools and local health departments with Maryland Department of Health guidance.

It is important that an individualized analysis be conducted so that each non-public school has the same opportunity that public schools have to make reopening decisions based on the [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) recommendations](#), and that are consistent with the [Maryland State Department of Education's \(MSDE\) Reopening Plan](#).

Childcare and summer camps are some examples of where reasonable precautions, in line with CDC guidance and common-sense steps by Marylanders, have resulted in a balance between minimizing the risks posed by COVID-19 and providing children with the necessary educational opportunities. The experience over the summer has shown that a careful approach of individualized facility planning has yielded success in minimizing outbreaks.