

School Care Considerations for Students with Diabetes

The start of the 2020-2021 school year brings particular challenges due to the ongoing COVID19 pandemic. Families are hesitant to send children with diabetes back to school because of the increased risk of exposure to COVID-19. On the other hand, we are eager for all children to return to school because of its important social, emotional and

1. Their child's diabetes control
2. Their school's plans for limiting COVID-19 spread
3. Whether or not an adult can be home to supervise learning and diabetes care during the day
4. The risk of COVID-19 for others living in the same household

Please remember that the COVID-19 situation is changing rapidly, and we still need more data on COVID-19 in children with diabetes. This means any recommendations made now may change over time.

- Children are less likely to be infected by COVID-19 than adults (JAMA. 2020;323(13):1239)
- COVID-19 infections in children are usually less severe than in adults (Pediatrics. 2020;145(6):1)
- Children under age 10 years spread COVID-19 to others less often than adults (Pediatrics. 2020 May 26:e20201576. doi: 10.1542/peds.2020-1576. Online ahead of print)
- Children 10 years and older spread COVID-19 just as much as adults do (Emerg Infect Dis. 2020 Oct. <https://doi.org/10.3201/eid2610.201315>. Online ahead of print)
- Adults with diabetes, especially type 2 diabetes, are at higher risk for hospitalization and death due to COVID-19 infection (J Diabetes Sci Technol. 2020 Jul;14(4):813)
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