

Global tracking of COVID-19 caused school closures and re-openings

Methodological Note

As the UN agency mandated to coordinate and lead on global education, UNESCO is tracking the evolution of COVID-19 caused closures of educational institutions and monitoring the policy responses deployed to mitigate impact. This includes tracking the timing and duration of closures and the number of students affected by level of education and sex. The data on closures and re-openings, as well as the number of impacted learners, are displayed on an interactive map. Updated on a monthly basis, the map shows the evolution of closures since mid-February 2020. Data on the evolution of school closures and re-openings is available for download. The map complements other efforts to collect timely data on educational disruption and response during the pandemic. These data have been widely cited in the media and are being used by partners in their responses to the COVID-19 crisis.

THE MAP ON THE CLOSURE AND REOPENING OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Each country is categorized in one of the following groups:

- Closed due to COVID-19: Government-mandated closures of educational institutions affecting most or all (or at least 80%) of the student population enrolled from pre-primary through to upper secondary levels [ISCED levels 0 to 3]. In most cases, various distance learning strategies are deployed to ensure educational continuity.
- Academic break: Most schools across the country are on scheduled academic breaks for periods of at least one week. All study during this period is suspended.
- Fully open: For the majority of schools (at least 80%), classes are being held exclusively in person, noting that measures to ensure safety and hygiene in schools vary considerably from context to context and/or by level of education.
- Partially open: Schools are (a) open/closed in certain areas only, and/or (b) open/closed for some grade levels/age groups only; and/or (c) open but with reduced in-person class time, combine with distance learning (hybrid approach). It also includes the countries where national governments have deferred decisions on re-opening to other administrative units (e.g. region, municipality or individual schools), and where a variety of re-opening modalities are being used.

NUMBER OF LEARNERS IMPACTED BY THE CLOSURE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The number of learners impacted in countries categorized 'Closed due to COVID-19' is the sum of national enrollment figures at pre-primary, primary, secondary levels [ISCED 0 to 3] as reported in the UNESCO Institute for Statistics Database. Enrolment figures are based on the latest available enrollment figures reported between 2000-2021. The reported number of learners impacted does not account for learners in countries affected by localized closures, or in which partial re-openings are underway.

For more information: ERF@unesco.org