



COVID-19 SOCIAL DISTANCING CLASSROOM CAPACITIES FAQ

Q1: What is meant by “Social Distancing Classroom Capacity”?

A1: This is the number of people (students and adults) determined to be able to occupy a classroom on a regular basis to provide a desk/table arrangement to allow social distancing of at least 6 feet.

Q2: How were the classroom capacities determined?

A2: To ensure an additional margin of separation, each student space was bounded by a 1-foot “bubble” for capacity calculations. Rather than point-to-point, the 6-foot distances were measured from the edge of one student’s bubble to the edge of the next student’s bubble to provide an additional overall buffer for flexibility and safety.

Q3: Was there any consideration given for furniture, bookcases, extra desks/tables, etc.?

A3: The capacities of each classroom take into account cabinetry, counters, and permanent bookcases. After the initial number of student spaces were calculated, subtraction factors (sinks, doorways, protrusions, presentation stations, etc.) were applied based on the classroom or common area layout to reduce the total to a practical net capacity.

Q4: Are the classroom desks/tables required to be in a certain arrangement to accommodate the social distancing capacity?

A4: They were calculated to include a buffer in most cases to allow options for desk/table arrangements. Please note:

- Unnecessary furniture may possibly need to be moved to an unused portion of the classroom or marked “do not use.”
- When possible, desks or tables will be arranged to allow students to face the same direction (rather than facing each other).
- Area rugs, stuffed animals and soft furnishings that cannot be easily cleaned and disinfected will need to be removed, and this will also help provide more flexibility with space.

Q5: Are there areas where student desks/tables should not be placed?

A5: It will be important to maintain egress widths of 6 feet for clear entrance into classrooms and around major accessible components of the room including adjacent spaces accessed from the room, sink areas, and other stations frequently visited by students during class time.

Q6: Will the social distancing capacities be posted?

A6: Each classroom and common area will have a placard posted on the inside and outside of the space. The placard will indicate the COVID capacity, the room number or location, and the name of the school.

Typical classroom placards will indicate the “COVID Social Distance Capacity.” This number will include the total number of students and adults who can occupy the area on a regular basis to allow for a physical separation of at least 6 feet.

Q7: What about visitors to the classroom?

A7: The posted social distancing capacities are not meant to exclude temporary visitors. Keep in mind that the social distancing capacities of each classroom assume that a student desk will not be placed, for example, in the area immediately next to a sink or doorway. Based on the arrangement of the classroom, other areas may also provide adequate social distancing for a visitor to be positioned on a temporary basis (i.e. administrators for a walk-thru or evaluative observation).

Q8: What is the process for a teacher to use if they disagree with the classroom capacity determined for social distancing?

A8: The calculations were determined in a conservative manner providing buffers for desk/table distances, and subtraction factors for sinks, doorways, protrusions, presentation stations, etc. That said, if a teacher has not been able to create an arrangement in the classroom that matches the capacity calculation, they should inform their COVID Site Safety Coordinator. Assistance may be provided to consider other arrangement alternatives, or if deemed necessary, the social distance capacity figure will be adjusted.