

WHAT WORKS IN OUTBREAKS: APPLYING THE CDC FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE STRATEGIES

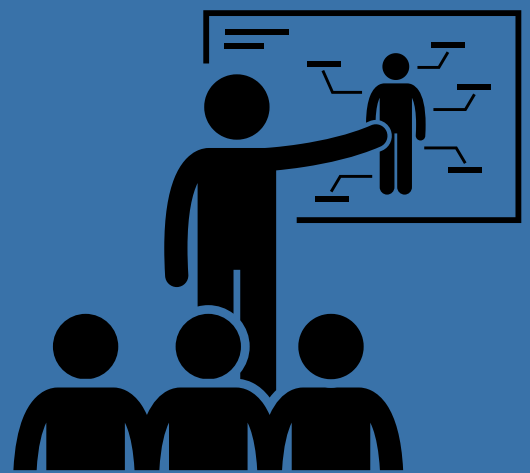
What Works in Schools from CDC DASH (Division of School and Adolescent Health) is an approach to school-based health that has shown to improve health behaviors. In response to COVID-19, mpox, and rising STIs, NCSH applied the framework to demonstrate how What Works in Schools can support sexual health-related outbreak response strategies. This job aid divides considerations for implementation by the three pillars of the framework.

New or unfamiliar outbreaks may not be included in established curriculum.

Therefore, reference new CDC guidance or statements on outbreaks to create ad-hoc addendums to curriculum (use as an opportunity to teach how public health responses operate via emerging science).

Consider age-appropriate webinars for students during outbreaks to learn from professionals in the sector; watch together in class and discuss.

1. QUALITY HEALTH EDUCATION.



Quickly determine whether on-site testing/vaccinations are possible for school-based health clinics.

Review referral networks to identify which providers can test/treat students and their families during outbreaks. Send info home (in languages spoken by parents). Partner with clinics and health companies who may have capacity to create culturally-responsive materials.

Talk with Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) & state health depts. who have access to the most current outbreak data to identify heat maps where services lack and prioritize those schools for testing.

2. HEALTH SERVICES.



Educate parents on outbreaks to increase safety and support. Send out bulletins to dispel myths and rumors.

Train teachers and staff on outbreak-related language and risk factors as information is made available. During mpox, people falsely claimed it was only gay men at risk, for example.

Reinforce school connectedness by talking about outbreaks as shared challenges everyone is experiencing together to develop a sense of unity.

3. SAFE & SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS.



QUESTIONS? EMAIL US:
ADOLESCENTHEALTH@NCSDDC.ORG

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT WORKS IN SCHOOLS, VISIT:
[HTTPS://WWW.CDC.GOV/HEALTHYYOUTH/WHATWORKS/INDEX.HTM](https://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/whatworks/index.htm)