

# Turn On the Tap!

## School Drinking Water Access During COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond

Easy access to safe and appealing drinking water is important throughout the school day for students and staff and is required as a part of school food service, including for School Year 2021-22.

Schools may have turned off drinking water fountains during the pandemic, however, the virus that causes COVID-19 has not been found in drinking water and the risk of contracting COVID-19 from surfaces is considered to be low.

**Use these practical tips to make sure your students are hydrated, healthy and ready to learn.**



Ensure water sources are available during mealtimes and throughout the day, and promoted with signage.



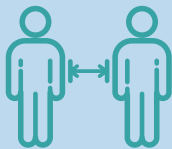
If your drinking water fountains or other outlets have been out of use, follow guidance for re-opening building plumbing.



Touchless water bottle filling stations can help minimize touching surfaces.



Make sure all drinking water sources are regularly cleaned.



Ensure students stand spaced apart when using the water fountain.



Encourage use of reusable, recyclable, or compostable cups and refillable water bottles – to get more than a sip of water and reduce spread of germs.



### Other Resources:

- [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Information for families on [how to care for reusable water bottles](#) (A Healthier Michigan)
- [Increasing School Drinking Water Availability During COVID-19 and Beyond](#) (Alliance for a Healthier Generation and the National Drinking Water Alliance)
- [Water Access in Schools resources](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- [Water promotional materials](#) (National Drinking Water Alliance)

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<https://nopren.ucsf.edu/sites/g/files/tksra5936/f/Turn%20on%20the%20Tap%21%20School%20drinking%20water%20access%20during%20COVID-19%20pandemic%20and%20beyond%20%287%29.pdf>