

YOUR ROLE in Keeping Children with Complex Health Needs Healthy in School

What school staff can do to support the health and participation of children with complex health needs in the classroom.

HEALTH

- Wash or sanitize your hands regularly throughout the day to **prevent the spread** of respiratory infections.
- **Encourage masking** when students or staff are exhibiting symptoms of respiratory illnesses or based on public health guidelines/CDC recommendations.
- Follow recommended guidance on **vaccinations** against influenza, COVID-19 and other vaccine-preventable diseases.
- **Support customizing plans** for a child's safe school attendance in collaboration with the family, other school personnel, and, when relevant, their healthcare team.



COMMUNICATION

- **Stay aware of the increased health risks** of respiratory illnesses for children with complex health needs from the healthcare team.



- **Maintain regular communication** with families about respiratory illnesses, preferences for prevention, and other school health-related topics. **Ask families for their recommendations** on how best to support their child's health and learning in school.



Visit reset4kids.org/resources to see examples of what communication tools other schools have used.

- **Familiarize yourself with contingency plans** for children with complex health needs that may be found in their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 plan.

SOCIAL CONNECTION

- Create plans and **implement supports that include children with complex health needs in general classroom activities** whenever possible. Not only is this the law, it benefits and supports the learning of children with complex health needs as well as their peers.
- Do your part and support others to **ensure each child is an independent, valued, and respected classroom member**, regardless of their health needs.

