

# School closures linked to decreased COVID-19 incidence, death

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(HealthDay)—School closures in the United States were temporally

associated with decreased COVID-19 incidence and mortality, according to a study published online July 29 in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Katherine A. Auger, M.D., from the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, and colleagues examined the association between [school closure](#) and its timing with COVID-19 incidence and mortality in a population-based observational study. States were examined based on state-level COVID-19 cumulative incidence per 100,000 residents at the time of closure of schools.

The researchers found that the cumulative incidence of COVID-19 ranged from 0 to 14.75 cases per 100,000 population in [states](#) at the time of school closure. There was an association for school closure with a [significant decrease](#) in the incidence of COVID-19 and mortality (adjusted relative changes per week, -62 and -58 percent, respectively). In states with a low cumulative incidence of COVID-19 at the time of school closure, these associations were largest. The relative change in incidence was -72 percent versus -49 percent for states with the lowest versus the highest incidence of COVID-19. Closing schools when the cumulative incidence of COVID-19 was in the lowest quartile was associated with 128.7 fewer cases and 1.5 fewer deaths per 100,000 population during 26 days and 16 days, respectively.

"It is unclear how COVID-19 spread would be affected if schools remained open while states enacted other policies to restrict movement," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text](#)  
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