|  | **Within-classroom distance rule** | **Rules on reduced class size** | **Mask rule** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| South Africa | In one rule, a distance of 1.5 metres between learners is required, in another this is said to be an ideal one should strive for. | Schools ‘must operate at 50% or less of their capacity at any given time’ in one hard rule, while another policy is more open-ended. | Masks for everyone. |
| Ecuador | Learners should be kept 2 metres apart[[1]](#endnote-1). | A maximum level of attendance of 30%, and a maximum school day of four hours, are being piloted[[2]](#endnote-2). | No information found. |
| England[[3]](#endnote-3) | Learners should be kept 2 metres apart wherever possible. Physical distancing is considered more important at the secondary level. | An earlier June policy presented the following fairly hard rule[[4]](#endnote-4): ‘plan that classes are no more than half their usual size’. This has subsequently been removed with the August policy. | Guidance is not to use masks as they are deemed unnecessary in the classroom setting. |
| Finland | For primary learners there is no distance norm[[5]](#endnote-5), but for upper secondary learners (age 16 and above), a distance of 1 to 2 metres is recommended between learners[[6]](#endnote-6). | The determination of this is left to schools. | No mention of masks. |
| Mozambique[[7]](#endnote-7) | Learners should be kept 1 metre apart. | After the morning assembly, no more than 300 learners should be taught in the school at once, the implication being that many learners would wait outside class for their turn. | No mention of masks. |
| Singapore[[8]](#endnote-8) | In place of a distance rule, the following is the norm: ‘Fixed exam-style seating in classrooms with small group discussions allowed’. | Class size reductions have been specifically avoided (see the discussion above). | Masks for everyone. |
| Spain[[9]](#endnote-9) | Learners should be kept 1.5 metres apart when masks are not used, or when one is not dealing with small stable groups. Small stable groups are groups of primary-level learners of no more than 20 children who mix with no other children in the school. No distance rule exists for when learners are wearing masks, at either the primary or secondary level. | There are no national rules, but reports indicate that certain regions in the country will have afternoon shifts to deal with the situation[[10]](#endnote-10). | Masks on learners required wherever a distance of 1.5 metres cannot be maintained. |
| Sweden[[11]](#endnote-11) | The distance between desks should be increased, if possible. | Appear not to exist. | No mention of masks. |
| United States[[12]](#endnote-12) | Learners 1.8 metres (6 feet) apart ‘if possible’, though one clause implies this is actually between desks. | ‘Cohorting’ seen as necessary, but no rules. | Masks for everyone. |
| Uruguay[[13]](#endnote-13) | Learners should be kept 1.5 metres apart. | To facilitate smaller classes, no learners should attend school for more than four hours, but at the same time no learner should have access to the school for fewer than two occasions in a week. | Masks only required if the 1.5 metre distance cannot be upheld. |

1. Soares and Schoen, 2020. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Reinicio de clases presenciales en la Costa enfrenta a Ministra Romo y a Alcaldesa Viteri <https://www.primicias.ec/noticias/sociedad/reinicio-clases-presenciales-costa-enfrenta-ministra-romo-alcaldesa-viteri/> (20 August) [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Guidance for full opening: schools <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools#section-1-public-health-advice-to-minimise-coronavirus-covid-19-risks> (7 August) [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings> (1 June) [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Institutet för hälsa och välfärds och undervisningsoch kulturministeriets rekommendation till anordnare av utbildning och småbarnspedagogik under coronavirusepidemin <https://minedu.fi/documents/1410845/22330894/THL+UKM+rekommendation+till+anordnare+av+utbildning+och+sm%C3%A5barnspedagogik+under+coronavirusepidemin+4.8.2020.pdf/f592ff2e-4b5d-b520-5908-d718e3f97528/THL+UKM+rekommendation+till+anordnare+av+utbildning+och+sm%C3%A5barnspedagogik+under+coronavirusepidemin+4.8.2020.pdf?t=1596718699231> (4 August) [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. Institutet för hälsa och välfärds och undervisningsoch kulturministeriets rekommendation till universitet, yrkeshögskolor och anordnare av gymnasieutbildning, yrkesutbildning, fritt bildningsarbete och grundläggande utbildning för vuxna under coronavirusepidemin <https://minedu.fi/documents/1410845/22330894/THL+UKM+rekommendation+till+h%C3%B6gskolor+och+anordnare+av+utbildning+4.8.2020.pdf/1a34c1e6-774e-2b76-4af8-bdbf76636c7e/THL+UKM+rekommendation+till+h%C3%B6gskolor+och+anordnare+av+utbildning+4.8.2020.pdf?t=1596620740084> (4 August) [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. Circular No02/GM/MINEDH/2020 <http://www.mined.gov.mz/Documents/Circular%20n%C2%BA02.pdf> (17 March) [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. FAQs for COVID-19 infection in Singapore <https://www.moe.gov.sg/faqs-covid-19-infection> (23 August) [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. Medidas de prevención, higiene y promoción de la salud frente a COVID-19 para centros educativos en el curso 2020-2021 <https://www.educacionyfp.gob.es/dam/jcr:7e90bfc0-502b-4f18-b206-f414ea3cdb5c/medidas-centros-educativos-curso-20-21.pdf> (22 June) [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. Qué se sabe de la vuelta al cole: así son las medidas en cada comunidad <https://www.rtve.es/noticias/20200824/plan-vuelta-cole-coronavirus-comunidades-autonomas/2039860.shtml> (24 August) [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. Förslag på förebyggande åtgärder i förskolan och grundskolan <https://www.folkhalsomyndigheten.se/smittskydd-beredskap/utbrott/aktuella-utbrott/covid-19/verksamheter/information-till-skola-och-forskola-om-den-nya-sjukdomen-covid-19/forebyggande-atgarder-i-for--och-grundskola> (26 June) [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
12. Operating schools during COVID-19: CDC’s Considerations <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html> (21 August) [↑](#endnote-ref-12)
13. Protocolo de aplicación para el reintegro de estudiantes a centros educativos <https://www.utu.edu.uy/utu/sites/default/files/noticias/archivos/2020/05/anep_protocolo-reintegro-estudiantes-a-centros-educativos-pandemia-covid-19_2020-05-29_0.pdf> (29 May) [↑](#endnote-ref-13)