

Elementary Grade COVID-19 PREP_aRE Classroom Meeting Script Template

Give Basic (and reassuring) Facts

As you know, school was cancelled on [date your school was cancelled] for all schools in [school community name]. This was done because of a virus called COVID-19, which can make people sick, because the government did not want people to get sick.

[School community name] has done a great job of keeping people healthy. Adults in charge of keeping us healthy and safe have learned how to help prevent people from getting sick. So, for at least a while, school will be different as we do the things to prevent the spread of the virus. We are doing this to keep everyone healthy.

Reaffirm Safety

All over the world, people are coming together to find ways to treat and prevent this illness. We don't know when, but we believe we will be able to treat and prevent COVID-19. Also, we have done many things to ensure our school is a safe place. Hygiene is what we do to keep clean and to help keep all of us healthy. Our updated hygiene standards are:

- [specific hygiene action]
- [specific hygiene action]
- [specific hygiene action]

Changes to places where we are often close together:

- [Library and cafeteria]
- [Classroom seating]
- [Amount of time at school]

This will help us not be too close together.

Addressing Emotions

Sometimes when there are big changes, like not being able to come to school, or being more worried than normal about getting sick, people get upset or worried. You may be worried, you may not—both reactions are perfectly OK, as are all those in between. Right now, what is very important for you to know, is that if any of you would like to talk to an adult here at school about what is happening right now, we are happy to do so. Just let me know.

Allow Questions

You might have questions, and I would like to answer them. However, I may respond by saying that I will need to get back to you with an answer, or I may suggest that you need to ask your parents, or that something is a rumour and restate the facts. Also, remember, if you want to talk to someone about your feelings or reactions to what is happening at school and in [School community name], tell me at any time and I can make sure to excuse you to a counselor who is available to help.

Does anyone have any questions?

[Insert here a fact sheet and responses to anticipated student questions]