

# UPDATE 15 LACRO COVID-19 EDUCATION RESPONSE: SCHOOLS REOPENING

[August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020]

unicef   
for every child

*Next update: September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

As of 26 August, two countries in the LAC region, Nicaragua and Uruguay, have their schools open, while in others such as Anguilla, Brazil, Chile, and Haiti schools are partially open. In most countries of the region, schools remain closed, this is still impacting an estimated 138 million<sup>1</sup> children and adolescents. Where schools are still closed Ministries of Education and UNICEF continue to support distance learning for all children through various distance home-based learning resources (online platforms, printed materials, radio, TV, podcasts, WhatsApp, etc). However, reaching everyone remains a challenge. At the same time, at the Regional and National level, UNICEF teams are now working on developing protocols for the safe reopening of schools. This update aims to provide CO and partners some key information about the progress and tools developed in order to support governments in their preparation for the reopening of schools.



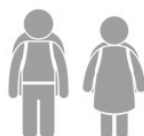
<sup>1</sup> United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Institute of Statistics, 'Welcome to UIS.Stat', <http://data.uis.unesco.org/#>>.

## 2. SITUATION OVERVIEW



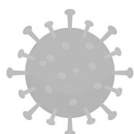
30

countries and territories in the LAC region with **schools completely closed**.



98%

(138m approx.) children are not receiving **face-to-face classes** in the region due to school closures.



100

school days on average without **face-to-face classes** since school closures in mid March.



2

countries and territories in the region (Nicaragua and Uruguay) have all their **schools fully open**.



4

countries and territories in the region (Anguilla, Brazil, Chile and Haiti) have all their schools **partially open**.



17

countries and territories in the region have developed **protocols** for the safe reopening of schools.



20m

children in 24 countries supported by UNICEF in the provision of **distance learning programmes** during schools closures.



66%

of countries in the LAC region which closed and for which **re-open date** has been decided.



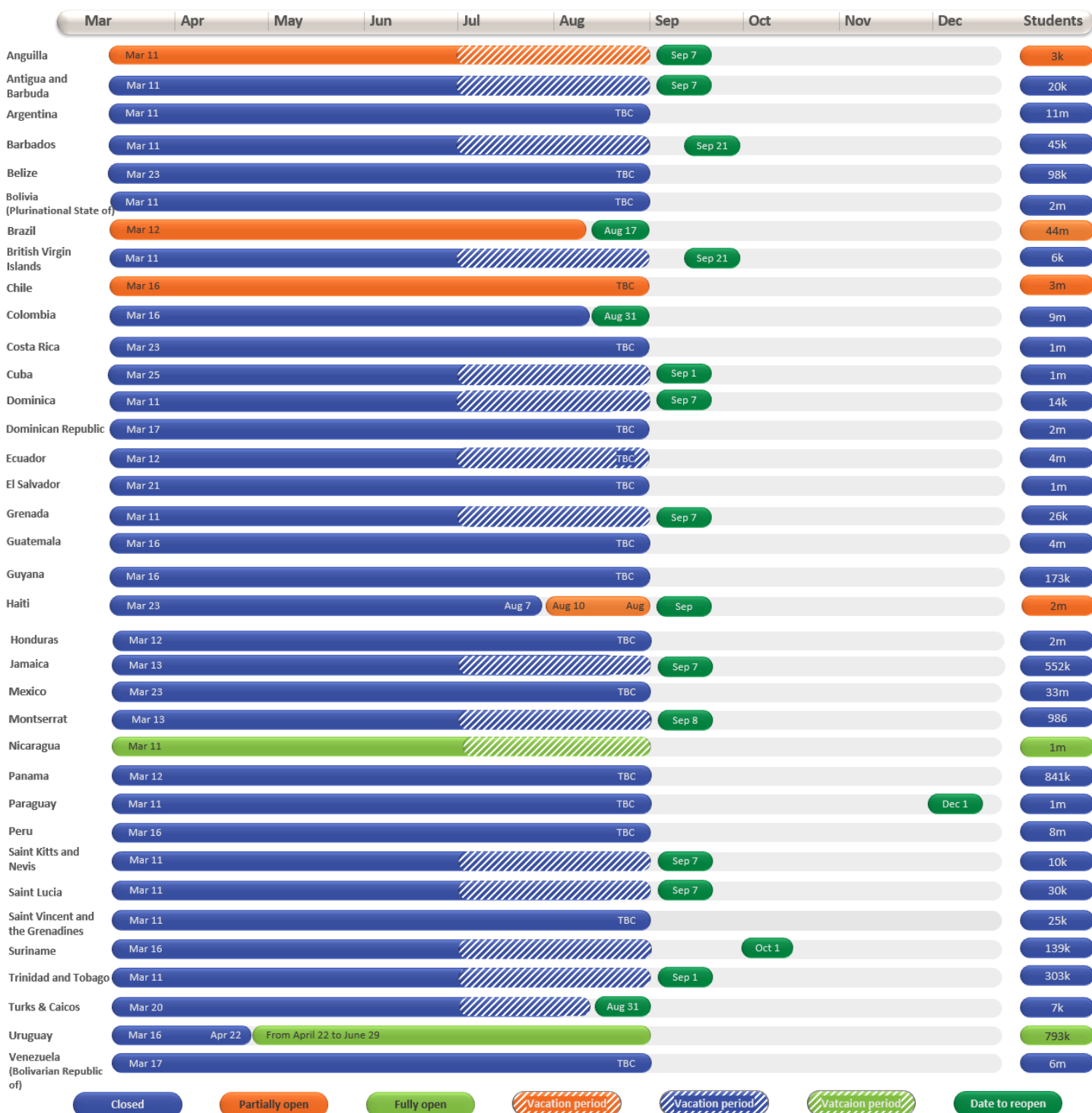
85%

of countries and territories in the region **engaged in advocacy or communications** on school reopening.

### Information sources:

United Nations Children's Fund, Reopening of schools: Safe school operations to ensure the right to education, <https://www.unicef.org/lac/en/reopening-schools>, 2020.

### 3. FACE-TO-FACE CLASSES TIMELINE



#### Information sources:

United Nations Children's Fund, Regional UNICEF LACRO COVID-19 Response Progress Report No2, August 2020.

United Nations Children's Fund, [Latin America & the Caribbean COVID-19 Education Response Update #13](#), consulted on August 23, 2020.

Data reported from Cos updates, consulted on August 23, 2020.

## 4. SUMMARY ON SCHOOLS REOPENING

As described in the previous sections, the reopening of schools has varied throughout the whole region. In **Uruguay**, all children have returned to face-to-face classes (with voluntary attendance) and in **Nicaragua**, schools were never officially closed (except for private schools where 60% have closed). In other countries such as **Ecuador, Brazil, Anguila, Chile and Haiti** schools have partially opened or are offering blended modalities (with attendance mostly focused in rural communities).

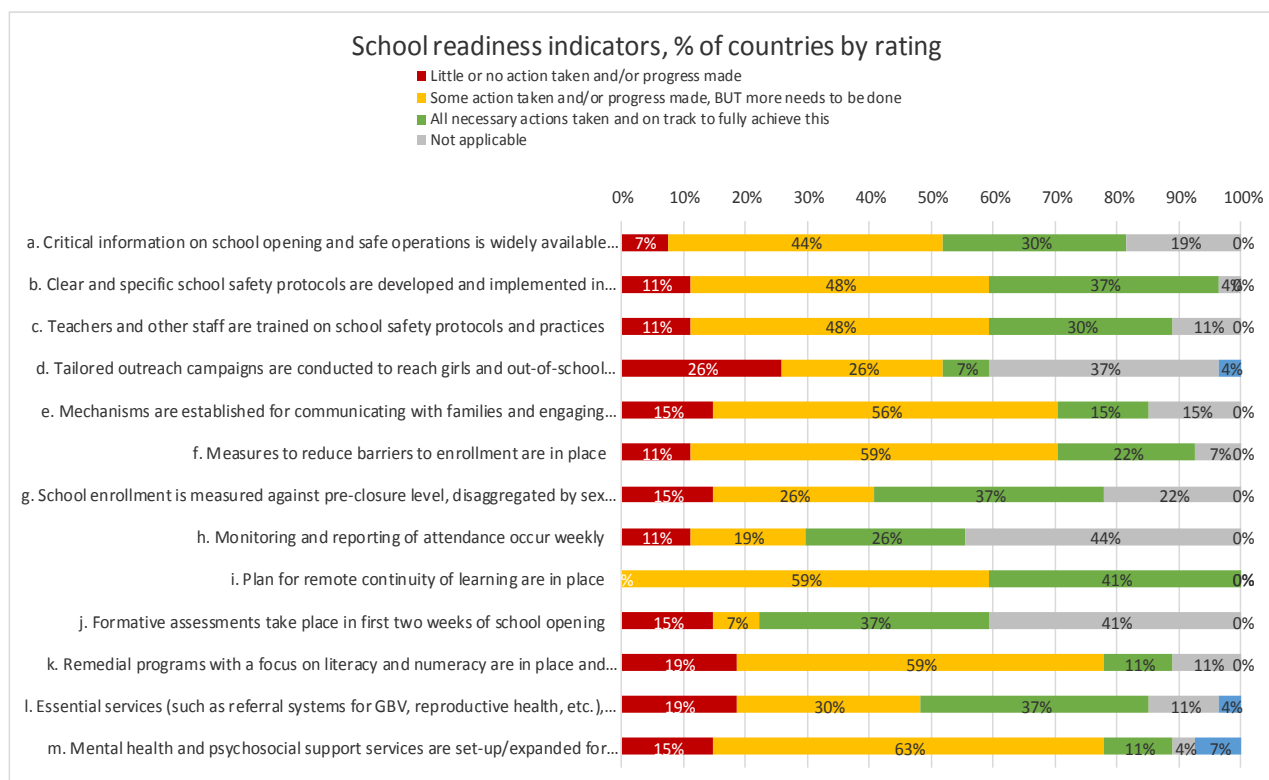
**El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Peru and Paraguay** all have stated that schools will not reopen for face to face attendance during 2020. In **Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Monserrat, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Vincent & The Grenadines, Turks & Caicos**, have no set dates for reopening schools in 2020 but will potentially reopen face to face classes during 2020. All offer remote/virtual learning modalities for the duration of the year.

**Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and Venezuela** are planning to reopen schools during 2020 pending on instructions from their ministries of health or the finalization of summer vacations. There have been severe Covid-19 Outbreaks in the region further causing delays in presential school reopening.

Lastly, **Bolivia** has made a worrisome announcement communicating the cancellation of the remaining portion of the 2020 school year and the automatic promotion of all students to the next grade.

It should be noted that although many countries have not set a date for the schools reopening, some have decided to continue the entire school year through distance learning, such as Peru or Paraguay, others, such as Ecuador or Colombia, are preparing to reopen by offering different modalities including face to face and distance learning. In Ecuador, for example, MoE has regulated two forms of education including home schooling and open education.

### School readiness indicators, % of countries by rating in LAC (based on 27 responses)



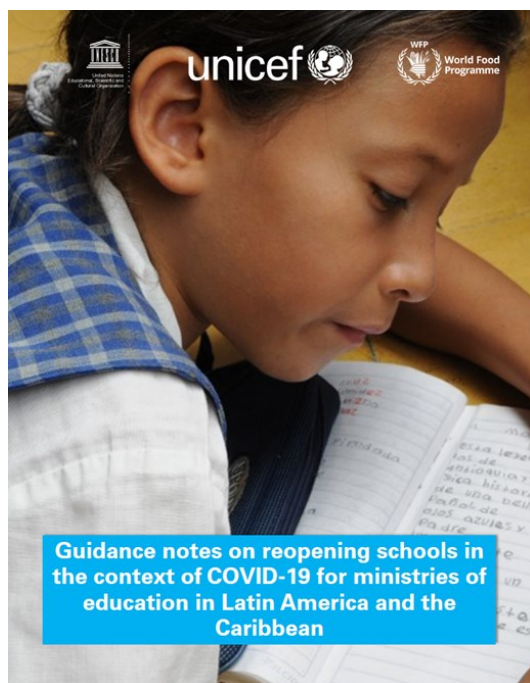
#### Information sources:

[Latest round of education tracker](#), consulted on August 2020.

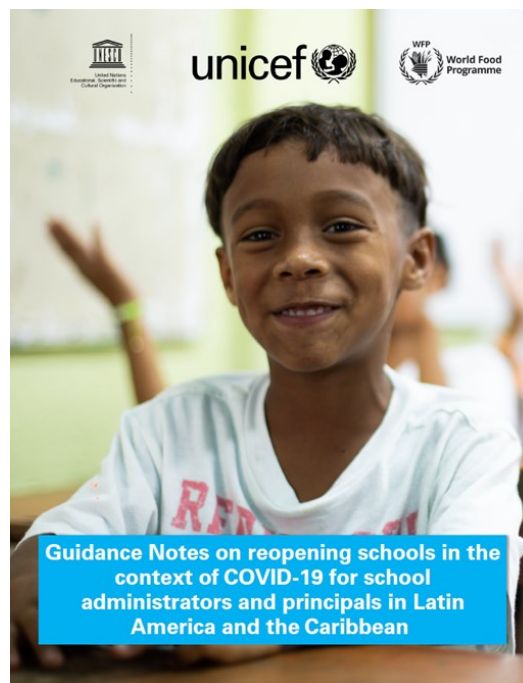
## 5. GUIDANCE NOTES ON REOPENING SCHOOLS IN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

UNICEF, in collaboration with UNESCO and WFP, have developed two guidance notes on the reopening school in the context of COVID-19, based on the global framework for school reopening aim to provide recommendations and technical inputs to the Ministries of Education and for school directors and administrators for the planning, preparation and implementation of safe reopening of schools. The guidance suggested in these notes should be contextualized and adapted to respond to local conditions and meet the learning, safety, health and nutrition needs of each child and adolescent. Both guidance notes include checklists addressed for Ministries of Education authorities and school management (administrators and principals) for the different phases of reopening, and are currently available in English and Spanish (coming soon in Portuguese).

### For Ministries of Education



### For school administrators and principals



### For Ministries of Education

CHECK LIST: BEFORE THE REOPENING OF SCHOOLS			
Country: _____			
CONTACT DETAILS			
Name: _____			
E-mail: _____ Phone: _____			
General information: Select "Yes" or "No" in the appropriate box. If you need to add additional information, use the Comments box.			
1. PLANNING, COORDINATION, COMMUNICATION AND MONITORING.			
DATA			
1.1. What kind of information and data does the Ministry of Education have on schools to ensure safe school operations?	Yes	No	Comments
Number of classrooms, outdoor facilities, among others.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
School access to clean water.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
School access to water, sanitation and hygiene (handwashing points).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Access to separate toilets for girls and boys.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Internet access for schools.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Number of teachers disaggregated by sex and level.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Number of students disaggregated by sex and level.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Number of school personnel disaggregated by sex.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Provision of school feeding.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Access to health and nutrition services.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Measures related to school transport.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Assessment of teachers' skills in digital environments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Number of students who have access to online distance education.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Number of teachers who have technological equipment and access to connectivity for online teaching.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Data on the most vulnerable groups and identification of their educational needs, including access to education and other services.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION			
1.2. What coordination measures with a multi-sectoral approach between the education, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), nutrition, protection and gender sectors include actions relevant towards the school reopening?	Yes	No	Comments
Coordination mechanisms between ministries and authorities at national and sub-national levels.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Intersectoral, intraministerial and multi-stakeholder coordination committees/teams.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Communication mechanisms with communities, teachers and families.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Regular consultations with key stakeholder groups, including teachers' unions, parents' associations, student associations, among others.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

### Before reopening schools

### As part of the reopening process

### For school administrators and principals

CHECK LIST BEFORE REOPENING OF SCHOOLS			
INFORMATIVE DATA			
Name of school: _____			
Country: _____			
Province: _____ City: _____			
Address: _____ Date: _____			
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____			
School official: _____ Other: (detail your position) _____			
Methodology: Select "Yes" or "No" in the appropriate box. If you need to add additional information, use the Comments box.			
Before reopening: Prepare with the critical policies, procedures and funding plans needed to improve schooling, focusing on safe operations, including strengthening distance learning practices.			
1. SAFE SCHOOL OPERATIONS.			
SAFE SCHOOL OPERATIONS			
1.1. Are there protocols and guidelines to ensure safe school operations?	Yes	No	Comments
Do you have a work plan for the prevention and control of epidemics?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you have a detailed description of the responsibilities of staff members?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you have an organization chart for information flow and communication with parents?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you have adequate facilities, menstrual hygiene supplies, sex-segregated bathrooms, lighting, ensuring menstrual hygiene for girls?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are the accessibility needs of children and persons with disabilities considered in materials, supplies and protocols?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Have you defined measures and materials needed to survey teachers, students, thus preventing the transmission of COVID-19?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are there guidelines on how to re-establish safe and healthy school feeding?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is the opening of schools conducted in stages?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is the opening of schools limited to a few days a week?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you identify the school population?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you identify the maximum number of students per classroom in order to maintain recommendations for physical distancing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Does the staggered calendar apply to certain grades? Please specify the grades (1st, 2nd, etc.).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Does the staggered schedule apply to certain levels? Please specify levels (preschool, elementary, middle school).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Have you developed a clear and understandable measure of physical distancing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Are the arrangements for activities involving large numbers of people appropriate? (parent meetings, graduations, etc.).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you have a staggered schedule with entry and exit times?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you have a staggered schedule of recess times?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Do you have a schedule for students to do outdoor activities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Have you considered working in shifts to reduce class size?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

### Before reopening schools

### As part of the reopening process

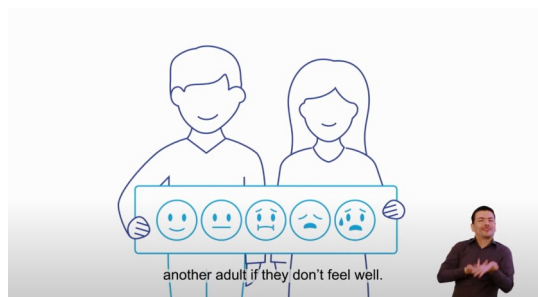
### With schools reopened



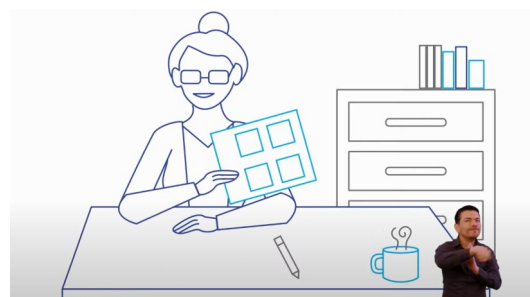
UNICEF LACRO has also adapted **series of videos for teachers, parents and students (secondary and preschool) on practical tips/recommendations to support the safe return to schools** from the original versions developed by China CO.

You can find the videos in LACRO's online repository (Reopening of Schools section) or via the following links or in Youtube:

#### Back to school tips for parents



#### Back to school tips for teachers



#### Back to school tips for preschool children



#### Back to school tips for secondary students



For more tools, please visit the [repository of resources for the COVID-19 education response](#) located on UNICEF LACRO's website.