School closures are an important strategy to mitigate the impacts of a pandemic. However, an optimal approach to transitioning from in-person to distance learning approaches is lacking. We analyzed a convenience sample of public K-12 schools in the early weeks of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. This initial snapshot provides some insights to inform future research into the variation of strategies across school districts, and would benefit from more rigorous methods to determine true correlations between demographic and geographic factors. Additionally, many of these strategies have evolved in response to ongoing and prolonged public health social distancing measures implemented after this analysis was conducted.

Key Words: COVID-19, infectious disease transmission, mitigation, pandemics, school closure
This initial snapshot provides some insights to inform future research into the variation of strategies across school districts and would benefit from more rigorous methods to determine true correlations between demographic and geographic factors. Additionally, many of these strategies have evolved in response to ongoing and prolonged public health social distancing measures implemented after this analysis was conducted. Further evaluation of these strategies, their adaptations over time, and their impacts on students over a wider sample could provide important insights into strengthening educational distance learning strategies as part of broader public health disease control strategies in a pandemic.

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Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

REFERENCES

