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Instruct

News, tips and insights for educators shaping the future of PreK-12

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It's truly anyone's guess as to when students will be back in classrooms. But on Tuesday, one of the nation's top coronavirus authorities, Dr. Anthony Fauci, offered hope that schools will **open up again in the fall**. By then, he says, we should understand how deep the virus has penetrated into society and the precautions we need to take going forward, such as protecting vulnerable populations and doing comprehensive contact tracing on those who test positive.

"This is not going to disappear," he says of the virus. But, "by the time we get to the fall, we will have this under control enough that it certainly will not be the way it is now where people are shutting schools."

THE SHIFT TO REMOTE LEARNING

PRIMARY CONCERNS: How do you engage students as young as 5 in remote learning? Make them feel seen and heard by acknowledging their contributions with the class. That suggestion, from a kindergarten teacher, was just one of many insights on a recent EdSurge-ISTE webinar on how educators are **working with families of young kids to spark learning during a difficult time**.

SYNCHRONOUS V. ASYNCHRONOUS: As professors and K-12 teachers adjust to the sudden move to online teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic, one question keeps coming up: How much of class time should be done live—known as "synchronous" teaching—and how much should be done so that students can do the work at their convenience—or "asynchronous" teaching. Here's **some advice from education leaders**.

THE TEACHERS AREN'T ALRIGHT: America's teachers were already anxious, burned out and overwhelmed before the pandemic. Now, their lives have been turned upside down practically overnight. In a column for EdSurge, two researchers at the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence lay out steps that educators and school leaders can take to **support their own mental health and well-being during this critical time.**

TOUGH TRANSITIONS: Some of the country's most innovative schools—even ones flush with technology—are struggling with the transition to remote learning. Among the concerns of project-based and service learning-focused schools: setting routines, getting kids to participate and keeping the spirit of their missions alive. “This is an existential crisis,” says one school leader, **whose focus now is on having grace for faculty and students.**

Sponsored by bulb Digital Portfolios

A LIFETIME OF LEARNING: Michelle Diaz and Rosilynn Yoon of bulb are big proponents of digital portfolios to cultivate lifelong learners. See why they believe that these tools “**should be foundational to every school's technical ecosystem**—for both remote and in-class learning.”

GOINGS ON

NEW ON LEARNINGKEEPSGOING: We've added podcasts and webinar recordings so you can keep up with the latest conversations about educating during COVID-19 at your own pace. **Listen now.**

REMOTE-LEARNING READINESS SURVEY: First step to solving a problem is knowing its contours. That's why ISTE is partnering with BrightBytes to offer a free remote-learning survey to help districts understand how their communities are doing with learning at home. **Sign up for it here.**

Follow your EdSurgeants @tonywan, @jryoung, @byemilytate, @wademillward, @becky_koenig and @stephenoonoo for the latest news and scoops as they hit the wire.

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ON THE PODCAST

FULL HOUSE: One house in Massachusetts is suddenly brimming with remote learning. With seven family members all trying to keep their studies going while their schools or colleges are closed, it's an accidental experiment in how different students react to emergency remote instruction. One common theme: **It's hard to find studying relevant** when the world is suddenly so uncertain.

JOLT TO THE SYSTEM: What will K-12 schools look like after social distancing ends and **people reassess what they want from our school systems**? For a bonus episode of the EdSurge Podcast, we talked with Simon Rodberg, a former principal of a charter school in Washington, D.C., and author of a forthcoming book: "What If I'm Wrong? And Other Key Questions for Decisive School Leadership."

ALL SCHOOL

CHILDCARE PIVOTS: Measures to restrict the spread of COVID-19 have disrupted not just local childcare providers, but also the startups that provide them with administrative and marketing software. As the market for in-person services plummets, some of these companies have been **forced to accelerate and prioritize their digital plans to survive**.

AP AT HOME: Advanced Placement exams will still take place this spring, but not like ever before. Students will take **shortened free-response tests at their homes on any available device** (or paper), and they'll be permitted to use their notes. The College Board is "confident" that most colleges will award credit for the truncated exams.

IMPORTANT LESSONS: COVID-19 is a health crisis. So why aren't there more materials about science and health in the instructional packets that schools are sending home? Rebecca Winthrop, a senior fellow and director at Brookings, says the United States would do well to learn from how other countries have **incorporated public health and**

safety messaging into emergency remote instruction.

REMOTE DIFFERENCES: School closures have forced millions of teachers, students and parents to prepare for remote instruction, often in a rushed and chaotic state. How those plans have been implemented so far—and the extent to which distance learning is in effect—**depends on who you ask, or how much your family makes**, according to recent surveys of parents and students.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS ABOUT ONLINE ED: Educators around the country are now attempting to quickly school themselves on how to teach online and recreate some of the magic of in-person instruction. . Our teaching advice columnist, Bonni Stachowiak, offers **her recommendations for the most useful books on the subject**—with some caveats.

BUZZ ABOUT TOWN

Experts are girding for a rise in child abuse as **stay-at-home orders lengthen**. (New York Times)

Schools are **turning away from video conferencing platform Zoom** over security concerns. (NPR)

Laptop vendors are warning districts **that their hardware supplies are going fast**. (Education Week)

At some schools, **less than half the student body** is able to participate in distance learning. (New York Times)



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Work as part of the IPS team to support members of the BU teaching community (faculty and project stakeholders) on the development of synchronous and asynchronous digital learning content.

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