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# **Considerations in Formulating Your School's Plan for Disease Mitigation: Fall 2021**

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# FALL 2021- What to Expect

- Vaccine:

- Approx. 40-70% of adult population vaccinatedlocal "herd immunity"

- Vaccines for children- >12 years old, <12 years old

- Testing:
  - Home and school testing
  - Health passes to attend events
  - Tracking variants
- K-12 Schools:
  - More students, up to 80-90% return to in-person learning
  - Testing, vaccines
  - Mental health concerns

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# **Mitigation Strategies for COVID-19**

Prevention

- Reliably wear masks
- Wash hands and disinfect surfaces
- Ventilate indoor spaces
- Implement physical distancing of at least 6' where possible
- Group and separate

### Detection

- Lab-based testing
- Point-of-care testing
- Over-the-counter testing

Containment

- Implement contact tracing
- Isolation and quarantine



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## Health/Temperature screen Plexiglass barriers Signage Visitor Policy



Welcome Back Students & Staff



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## CONSIDERATIONS FOR SETTING UP YOUR SCHOOL CLASSROOMS















Ensure Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) settings are maximizing ventilation.

If safe to do so, open windows and doors.

Filter and/or clean the air in your school

Use exhaust fans in restrooms and kitchens.

Opening windows, using portable air cleaners, and improving building-wide filtration are ways you can increase ventilation in your chool or childcare program.



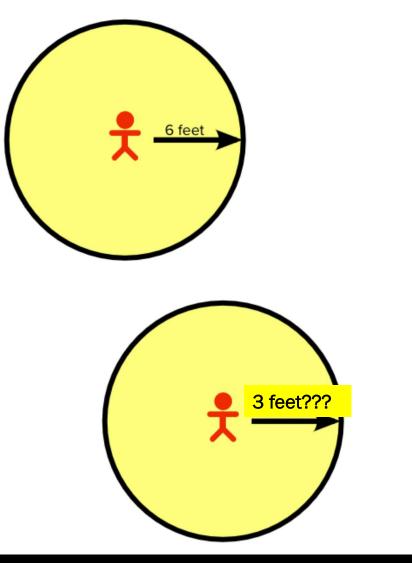


- Overall, the key to keeping the most kids in school centers around limiting close contacts of a positive individual
- This central idea can help you most effectively plan your school day and student cohorts

# Close Contact

Close contact of an infected individual

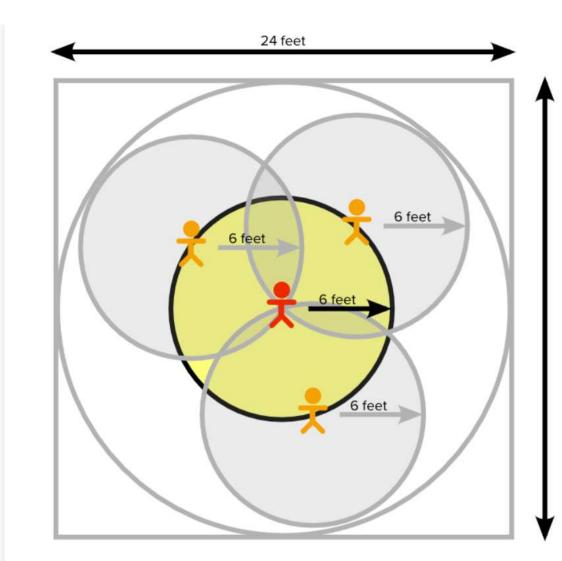
- Someone who was within 6 feet for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period
- Wearing a mask is critical to preventing the spread of COVID-19 but does NOT change proximity to an infected individual
  - Mask or no mask, inside of 6-feet is a close contact



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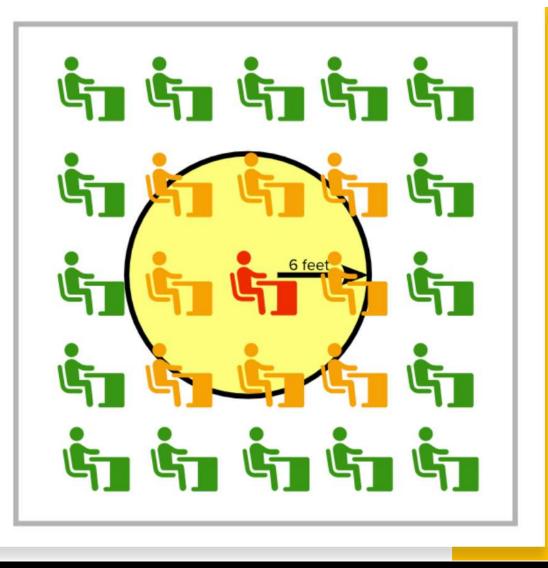
## Isolate & Quarantine

- Isolation separates sick people (contagious with COVID) from healthy people
  - In this example, there is 1 student to isolate
- Quarantine separates people who are exposed by Close Contact to a contagious person to see if they become sick
  - Why? They could become asymptomatic spreaders of COVID without knowing it
  - In this example, there are 3 students to quarantine



## Classroom Example

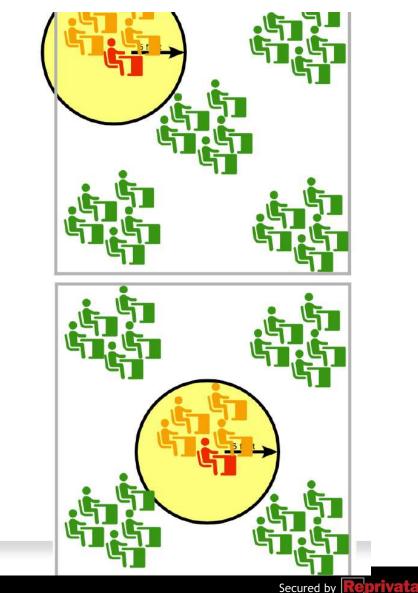
- If one student in the center tests positive for COVID, that student needs to be isolated
- The 8 other students that are close contacts need to be quarantined
- The other 16 students in the class are clear to return to school
- Note that this classroom arrangement changes the number of close contacts to quarantine based on the position of the student in the classroom



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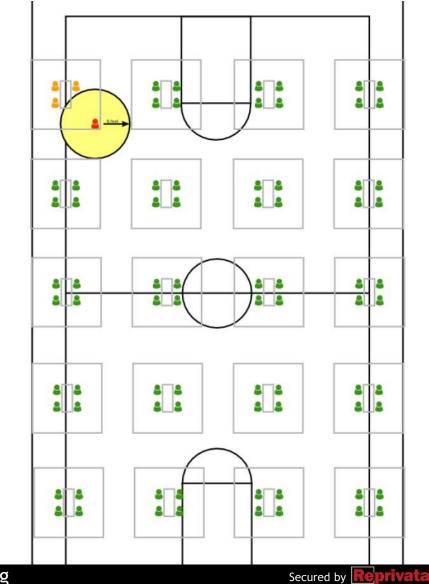


- In this example, the group of 25 students is arranged into consistent cohorts
- Quarantining is determined by cohort
- The number of students quarantined is consistent regardless of location in the classroom





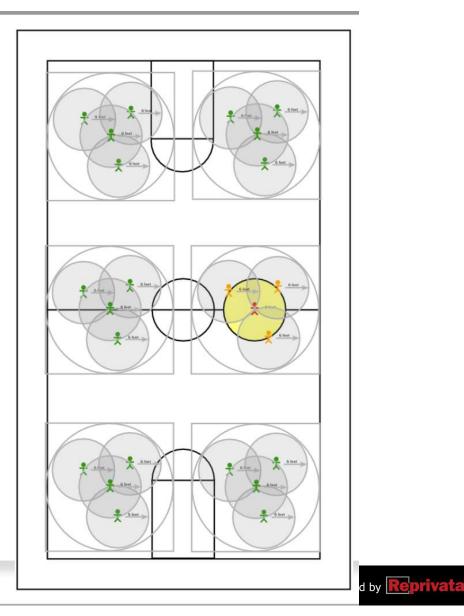
- It is better to set up in a larger space if possible (such as in a gym)
- In this example, the 80 students are given 12-foot square areas for their tables
- Each area is separated by a 6-foot isle allowing students within the seated area to move around
- This arrangement allows for wheelchairs to accommodate students with special needs





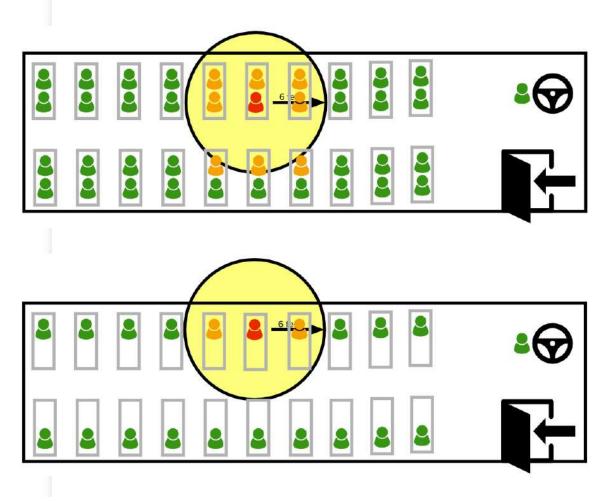
### Group & Separate

- In this example, there are 24 students in a physical education class
- Creating consistent groups (cohorts) of students that are always together, enables identification of who to isolate and quarantine and who is safe to return to school
- In this example, if one student tests positive, that one student needs to be isolated
- The other 3 students in the example 24foot square zone need to be quarantined
- The remaining 20 students are safe to return to school



## School Bus Example

- In the top example, if a student sitting in the isle in the middle of the bus tests positive, that results in the quarantining of 8 additional students
- By having only one student per row sitting at the window, the number of impacted students can be reduced to from 8 down to 2



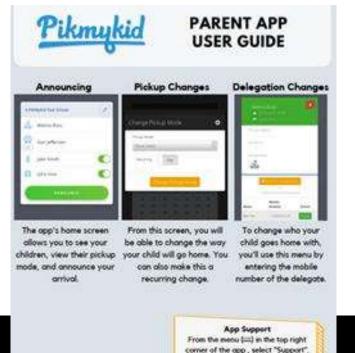
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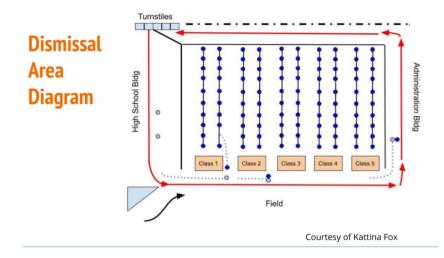


# GROUPING AND SEPARATIONS: DISMISSAL

Technology exists to track and organize dismissal options and tracking of students riding together.

- Pikmykid, School Dismissal Manager





A diagram for elementary school student-dismissal process. Source: Middleweb SmartBrief



## CLOSE CONTACTS: IMPLICATIONS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- Easiest group to cohort, teachers move not students
- Consider cohorts based on transportation, after school programs
- Consider rotating cohorts as often as possible based on the above

- Most teacher interactions- consider plexiglass when teacher needs to be within 3-6 feet of students, zoom for one-on-one interactions if teacher not vaccinated



## CLOSE CONTACTS: IMPLICATIONS MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

- More difficult with multiple teachers per day
  - if possible- teachers move not students
- Consider spacing out individually when possible and grouping in pairs, remove extra furniture from classrooms
- Consider using additional spaces with larger groups
  - lunch in classrooms, cafeteria for larger group activities or classes
  - PE outdoors, gym for larger group activities



### Library: Quarantine returned books, maintain social distance in library, use electronic catalogue

- <u>IMLS, CDC Offer Guidance for Disinfecting Returned Library Books</u>
  <u>School Library Journal (slj.com)</u>
- <u>Mitigating COVID-19 When Managing Paper-Based, Circulating, and Other</u> <u>Types of Collections | Institute of Museum and Library Services (imls.gov)</u>

Source: Centers for Disease Control

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# CONSIDERATIONS FOR SPECIALS

Art/ Music/ Drama: limit shared material, maintain social distance in art room, consider exposure of teacher

Music: consider "safer" activities- listening to music, playing non-woodwind instruments - limit: singing, woodwind instruments- consider those activities outdoors, well spaced with masks on

Drama: voice levels should be kept to a minimum

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Clubs: use as large of a space as possible to maintain social distancing

Sports: mask use, outdoor versus indoor, travel, "test to play"

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### GROUPING AND SEPARATIONS: CLASSROOM & SPECIALS

1. Mechanical Ventilation - HVAC system should operate at total supply air flow throughout the day as appropriate.

- 2. Physical Barrier Plexiglass barriers installed at reception desks.
- 3. Natural Ventilation

4. Supplemental Filtration/Ventilation - Use air purifiers to increase air changes in the space if building's HVAC system is unable to. Box fans can be mounted into windows to provide additional ventilation for buildings without HVAC systems.

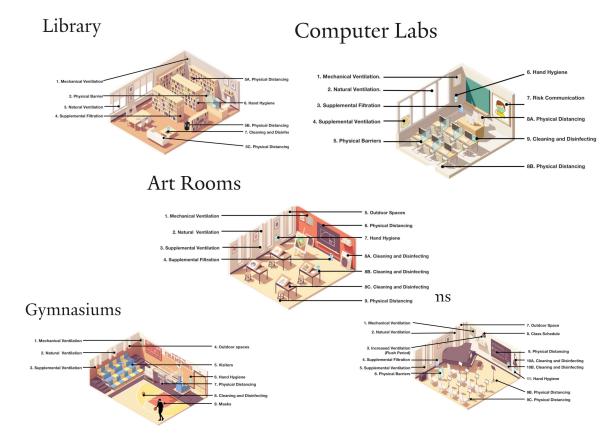
5. Physical Distancing - Arrange desks and seating to be at least 6 feet apart.

6. Cleaning and Disinfecting - Place disinfectant wipes on work spaces and ask students to wipe surfaces before and after use.

### LIBRARY:

Physical Distancing: Set single occupancy for each row of books & use a dropbox for book returns.

- Hand Hygiene - Place hand sanitizer at multiple easy-to-access locations throughout the library. Encourage students to disinfect their hands before touching shared items (e.g. books, magazines).



### Source: Yale School of Public Health

https://publichealth.yale.edu/research\_practice/interdepartmental/covid/schools/spaces/





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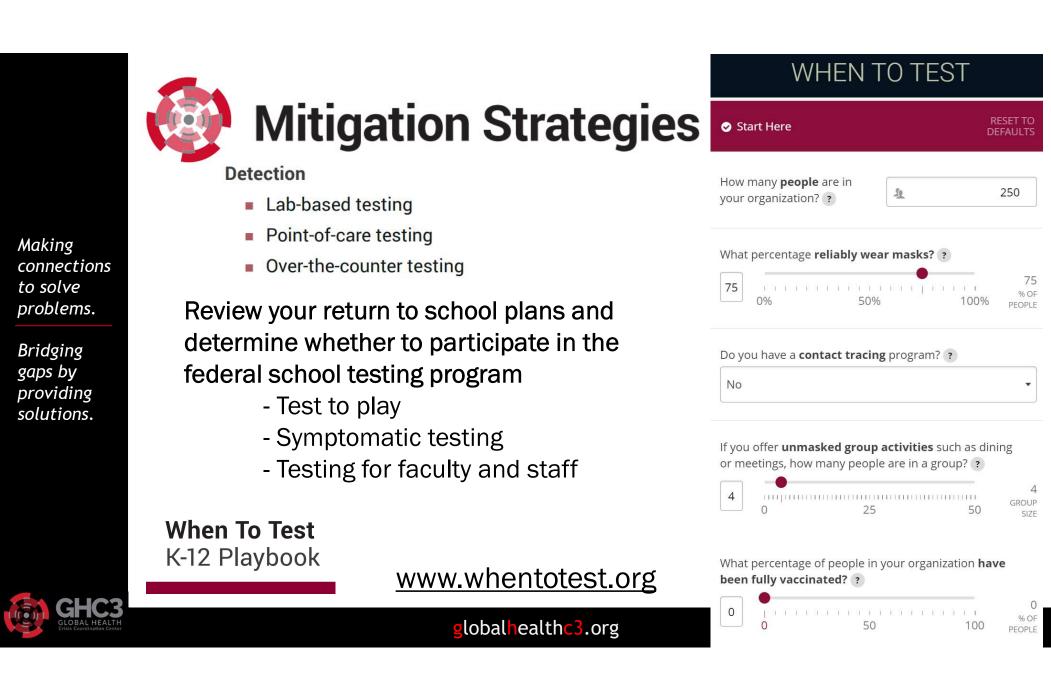


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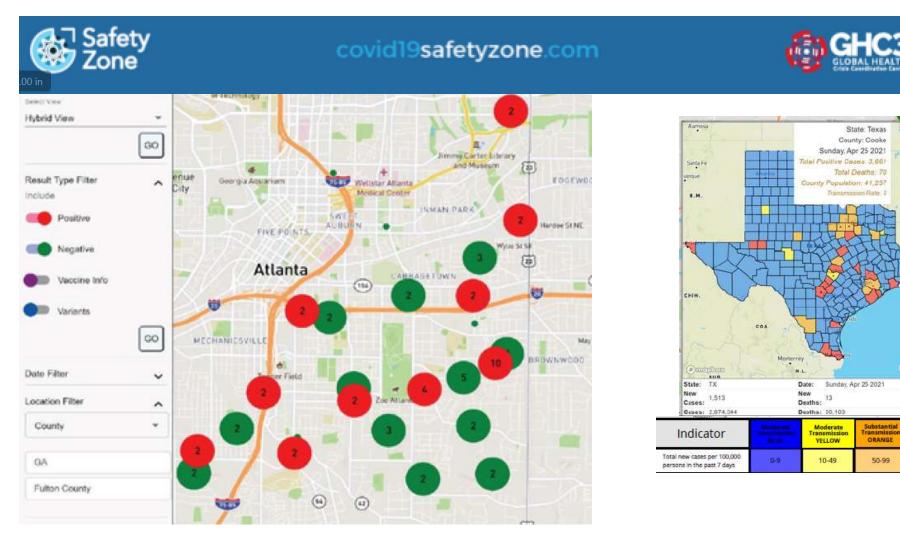


# COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR FAMILIES

 Communicate your school reopening plan and the justification for your strategies and mitigation tools

- Review your return to school plans and determine whether to participate in the federal school testing program

- Consider a Covid Dashboard to inform your community
- Consider technologies to aid in your return to school plans
  - health screens for teachers/ staff
  - health screens for visitors
  - contact tracing support



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## Screen Students, Teachers & Staff

### THE CHALLENGE

Public health authorities require businesses to ensure all students, faculty and staff perform a daily health check prior to arriving on campus. The success of all other health protocols rely on ensuring symptomatic individuals are kept away from those who are healthy. HR, Operations, Risk & Security teams are quickly realizing this is a complex, error-prone, time-consuming and tedious undertaking.

OUR SOLUTION

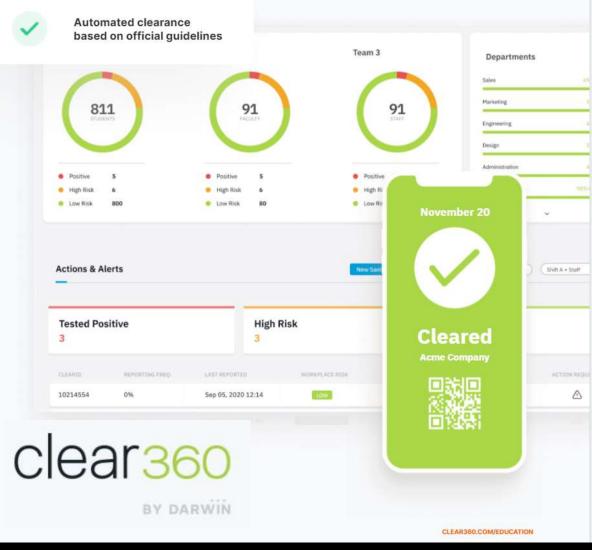


### Check-ins are your first line of defence

Clear360 is designed to ease the burden on admin teams by automating daily health check-ins for students, teachers and staff. Administrators get access to a dashboard which shows everyone's health status in real-time.

### Keep risks out

Clear360 helps the organization comply with this health regulation and helps keep the health risk campuses low. Health screenings strengthen every other safety protocol campuses put in place.



### **Contact Tracing** Support

#### THE CHALLENGE

When on-site transmission is possible, the challenge is to act fast and decisively to isolate the risks. Fortunately, app-based health management systems can reduce the onward transmission risk in your organization by 40 -75%\*. Instantly putting detailed data at the fingertips of the health authority drastically reduces contact tracing time and limits transmission.

#### OUR SOLUTION



#### An Instant Comprehensive Data Set

Tracers get immediate access to the case patient and possible contacts' information about: testing, results, symptoms, vaccination status, attendance records, cohorts and group affiliations. Add notes on exposure locations, activities and persons of interest - without invasive location tracking.

#### **Designed to Support Case Management**

### **Immunity & Vaccine** Management



#### **Positive Test Result** Q ClearID clear360 **Contact Tracing** Joyce Keldin Last Reported Details Action List Positive te Symptoms Travel 00 **Find Potential Close Contacts** Rapid traci Grade 1 Faculty St. Peter's 8+ E 12 Partial 2 Potential Contacts List Stacey Edward Grade 1 Faculty St. Peter's \* • • 25 Grade 1 Faculty St. Peter's A . D \* • St. Peter's Grade 1 Faculty St. Peter's \* • • Potential Close Contact Report St. Peter's 8º 0 1 Set Fillers to R **Clear Filteri** Test results, symptoms, travel, exposures St. Peter's \* • • Help (7) Immunization status, attendance Date range \* 5 St. Peter's Notes, flagged individuals of interest Sep 26 - Oct 4, 2020 St. Peter's \* • •

clear<sub>360</sub> BY DARWIN

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### RPS COVID-19 Dashboard

Currently RPS has 17,900+ Students and 2,700+ Staff



The District only tracks cases that are reported to us based on staff reporting and parents reporting their child(ren) cases.



VACCINES: ACHIEVING HERD IMMUNITY

- Schools as trusted messengers for community vaccination sites
- Schools as community vaccination sites
- Summer event?

## **TESTING:**

- Deciding on a potential testing strategy
- Managing positive cases
- Technology tools to support school staff and Communication with parents
- Summer event?

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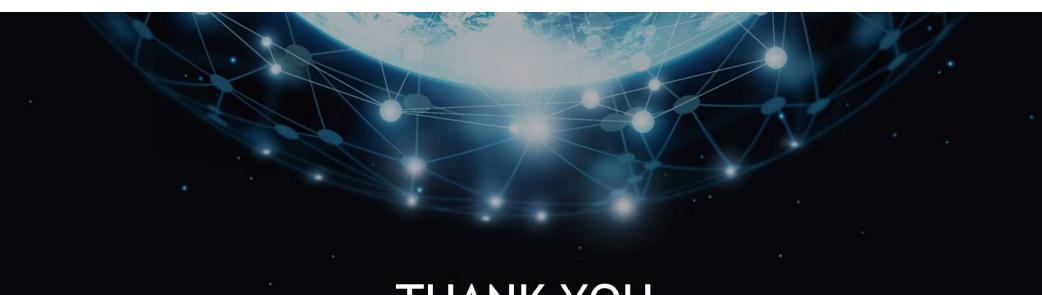


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# THANK YOU



