



TIPS FOR REOPENING YOUR SCHOOL



PARAGON
ARCHITECTURE

As you prepare to reopen your school there is a lot to consider to help protect students and staff from COVID-19. Included in this document are several tips to promote healthy behaviors, providing and maintaining a healthy environment, and mitigation strategies for when someone does get sick. These include a range of simple and temporary solutions to long term safety measures. It is important for you to evaluate your facility to determine what is practical and tailor it to your needs and requirements. When developing your operation plan be sure to collaborate with federal, state, and local health officials to determine the most appropriate actions for your school.



BEFORE



Tip#1 Simple Visual Cues that Encourage Social Distancing at School

You can buy vinyl floor signage to help remind students to keep a 6ft distance from peers in the hallway. But in a pinch, use the extra colored tiles (or carpet squares if you have carpet) that you already have in storage. Properly install them 6ft apart, and voila! Quick, affordable visual cues.

AFTER



Tips for Restroom Sanitation Procedures

Being a location that is commonly utilized by all inhabitants within your school, we have compiled several tips towards ensuring the safety and health of your facility's restrooms and sanitation spaces.

Tip #1:

Restrict access to every other lavatory and plumbing fixture as a means of maintaining a minimum six-foot distance between fixtures.

Tip #2:

Replace any manual faucets with touch free devices. Similarly, provide touchless paper towel and hand soap dispensers, and restrict access to existing hand air dryers.

Tip #3:

Provide touch free trash receptacles towards the entrance of every room to maintain ease of access for sanitation purposes.

Tip #4:

Restrict use of existing drinking fountains or replace units with touchless bottle filling stations. You may also consider adding these style of stations within classrooms to reduce interaction with specific units.

Tip #5:

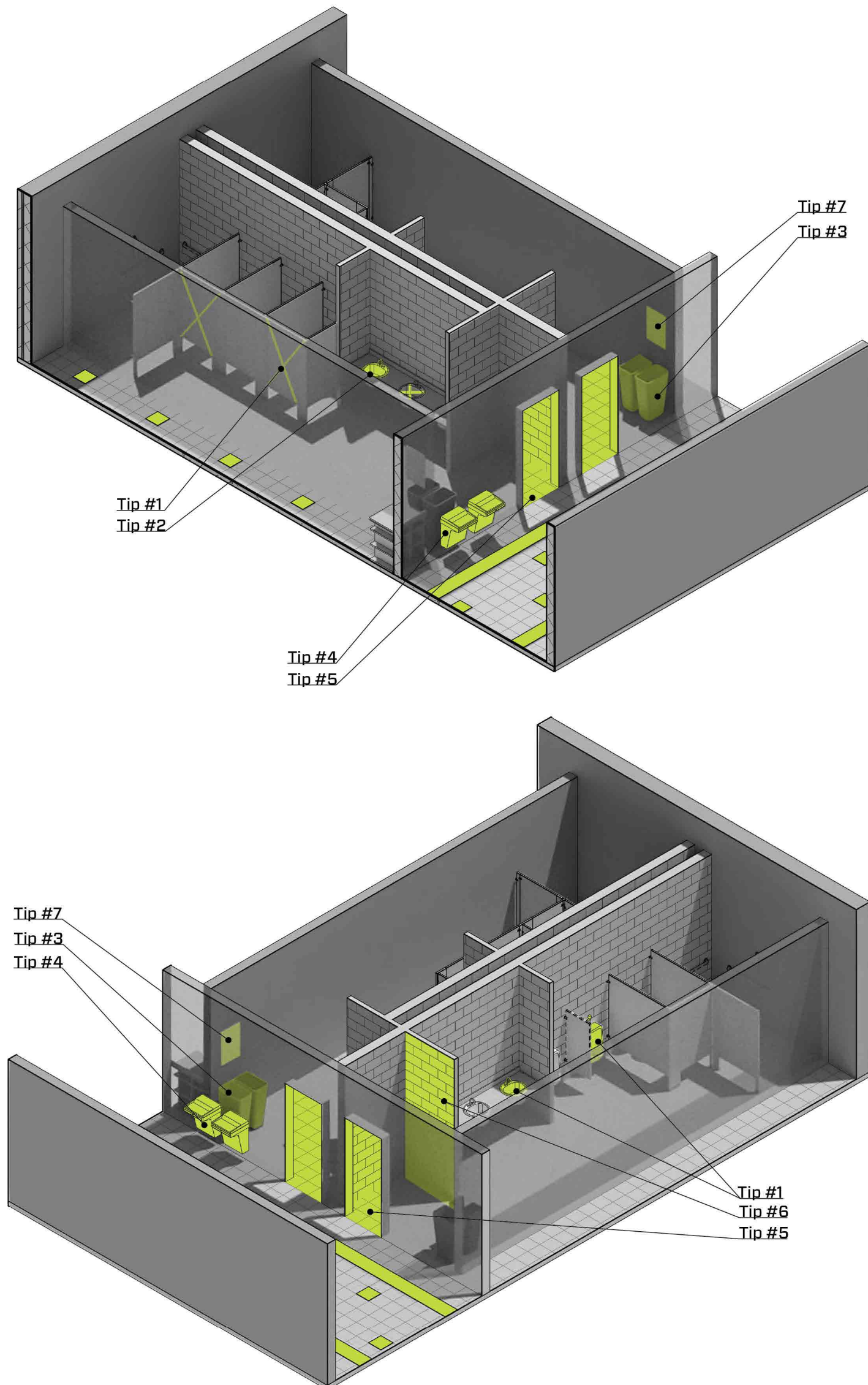
If possible, try and configure restroom entries to remove the need for physical doors. If this is not feasible, consider the implementation of hands free door opening hardware.

Tip #6:

Like many other rooms within your facility, consider the finishes applied within your school's restroom. Verify that your existing restroom finishes are non absorbant, and if not, attempt to use finishes like epoxy paint or install extra tile that you have in your attic stock that are easy to washdown and disinfect.

Tip #7:

Just like when prepping your classroom, be sure to post signs promoting hand-washing, desk sanitizing, and other protective measures that students can take to stay healthy and stop the spread.





Tips for Temporary and Long-Term Classroom Safety Measures

As schools prepare to open up this fall there is a lot to consider on how to ensure student safety. Here are several tips to help prepare your classrooms for when students return.

Tip #1:

Simple visual cues that encourage 6' Social Distancing. You can buy vinyl floor signage to help remind students to keep 6 feet distance from peers in the hallway, classroom or other spaces. But in a pinch, use the extra colored tiles (or carpet squares if you have carpet) that you already have in storage. Properly install them 6 feet apart and voila! Quick, affordable, visual cues. If the classroom is not big enough to provide enough social distancing consider staggered scheduling, or repurpose other larger spaces like cafeterias and gymnasiums for classroom settings.

Tip #2:

Germicidal UV (GUV) Disinfection Lighting that can be used to disinfect surfaces and spaces while the space is unoccupied.

Tip #3:

Use of operable windows for increased ventilation and circulation of outdoor air.

Tip #4:

Apply clear acrylic desk shields to limit airborne droplets resulting from coughing and sneezing.

Tip #5:

In classroom food service to limit larger gatherings and exposure to other students. Provide adequate space within the classroom for food service to be brought within the room.

Tip #6:

Add a sanitizing station for each classroom for increased hand hygiene. This could be as simple as a hand sanitizer dispenser accessory, temporary portable hand wash station, or a fixed hand wash sink.

Tip #7:

Signs and Messages - Post signs promoting everyday protective measures and how to stop the spread.

Tip #8:

Support healthy hygiene by having adequate storage for supplies including soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, tissues, disinfectants, and face coverings.

Tip #9:

Provide storage for personal items and other objects. Cubbies, bins, other containers can keep items organized and separated so that students can keep their belongings from being touched by others. Having dedicated learning aids, books, devices, etc. for each student limits the use of shared objects and helps stop the spread.

Tip #10:

Have the capability for temperature checks as they enter the classroom. Identify symptomatic students before they enter the classroom and expose others.

Tip #11:

Include technology inside the classroom for online E-learning and virtual meetings. These options provide students who have underlying conditions, are symptomatic, are under quarantine, or are remote do to staggered scheduling the tools to still participate and collaborate with the rest of the class. This also provides the opportunity to connect with other classes, introduce exterior instructors, and conduct virtual field trips, all while staying within their own space, limiting the amount of exposure to others.

Tip #12:

Shared desks: Many classrooms utilize shared desks that may not make it easy to social distance. In this scenario it still important provide spacing at least 6 feet apart when possible, but also keep the same students paired together and adding clear acrylic desk shields to help reduce exposure.

Tip #13:

Restrict use of existing drinking fountains or replace with touchless bottle filling stations and consider adding similar stations within each classroom.

Tip #14:

Provide touch free trash receptacles towards the entrance of every room to maintain ease of access for sanitation purposes.

Tip #15:

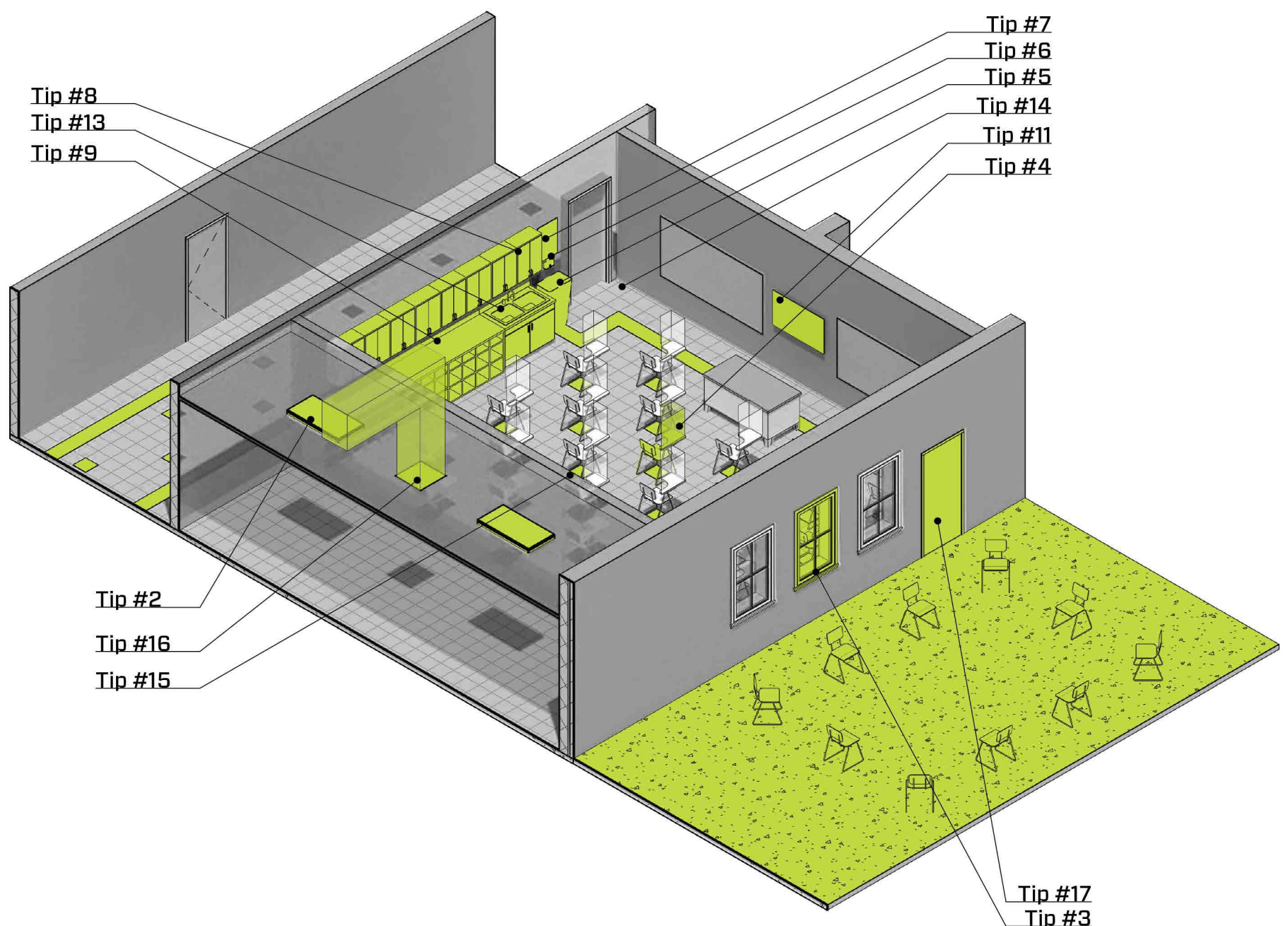
Analyze and consider modifying or adding acoustical finish treatments within classroom so when someone is speaking through a mask they can be heard clearly.

Tip #16:

Have a mechanical engineer analyze and modify your existing HVAC system to ensure proper ventilation fresh outside air intake, flushing, filtration, and monitoring of temperature, CO2 and relative humidity to provide quality air within the classroom.

Tip #17:

Utilize or increase use of outdoor spaces for learning and other recreational activities that may not be feasible inside a typical classroom or gymnasium. These could include activities such as simon says, hopscotch, chalk art, and gardening. This promotes fresh air and increases opportunities for social distancing.





Tips for Temporary and Long-Term Classroom Safety Measures

As schools prepare to open up this fall there is a lot to consider on how to ensure student safety. Here are several tips to help prepare your classrooms for when students return.

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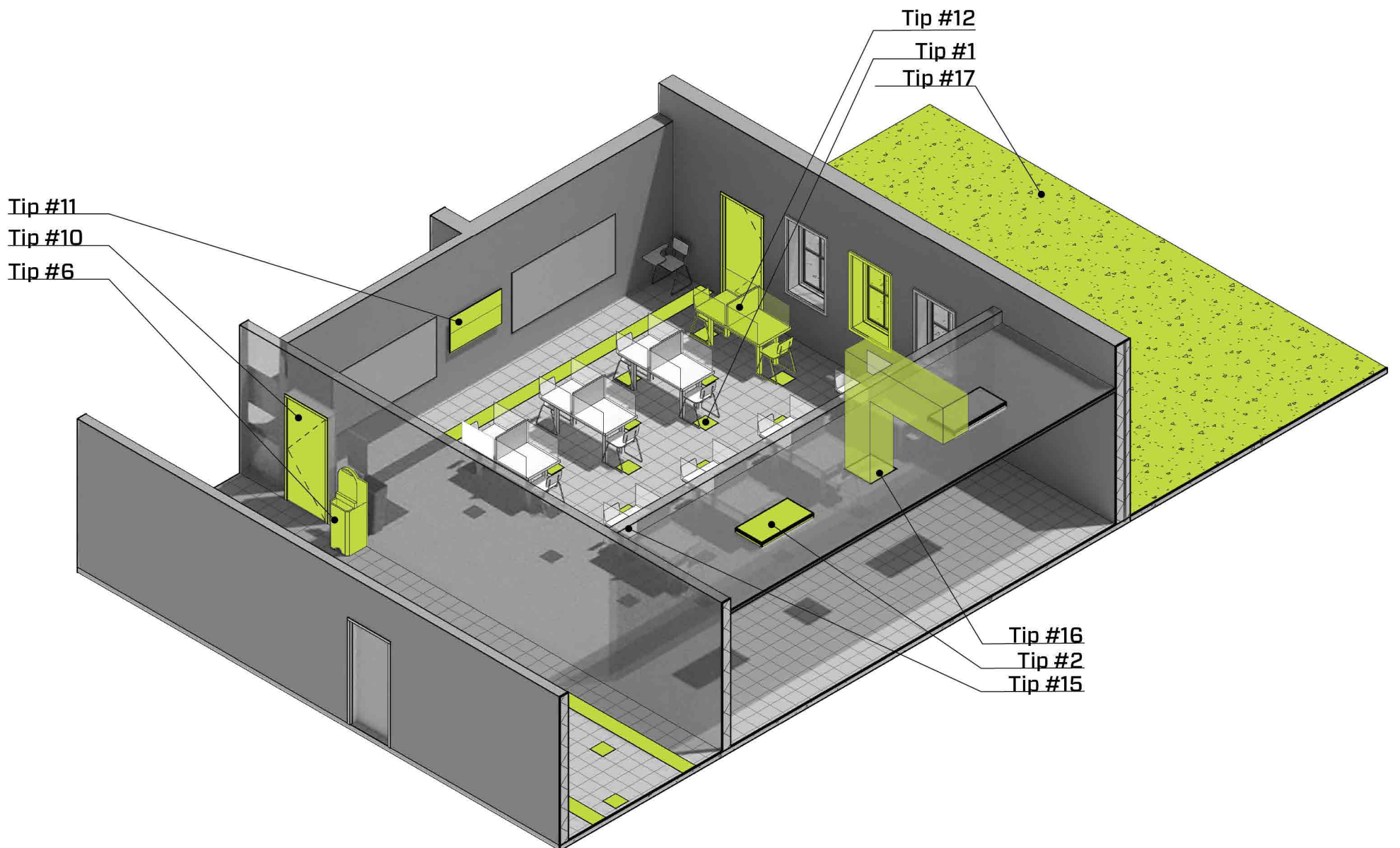
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Tips for Temporary and Long-Term Isolation Safety Measures

As staff and students return to school there will be instances where they may become sick. It will be important to be able to isolate those staff and students immediately.

Tip #1:

Identify an Isolation Room within your facility to separate those who get sick at school. Ideally separate from your Nurse's Office to prevent contamination of those with other medical needs. This could be an existing space that can be retrofitted like an old office or possibly a storage room. Have a larger space available? Add a couple walls and a door to create a new one.

Tip #2:

Don't have space for a separate isolation room or the budget to create one? Or concerns with early childhood staff to kid ratio requirements if a kid becomes sick and cannot remove them from the classroom? Provide an in-classroom isolation area to limit any further exposure. Kids who are in school all day may become symptomatic during class and there may not be enough staff to remove the one who is sick and still watch over the remaining kids. Having an area where they can separate from other students is necessary until they can be effectively removed from the classroom and quarantined properly.

Tip #3:

Telehealth! Provide a desk or computer in the Isolation Room or other private space so students can consult with their doctors, or health department virtually if they become sick.

Tip #4:

If possible try and locate the Isolation Room off a main corridor, so there is direct access to the space without traversing through other occupied spaces causing further exposure and contamination. This also allows safer procedures for transporting anyone who becomes sick to another location like home or to a healthcare facility.

Tip #5:

If possible try and locate the Isolation Room adjacent to the Nurse's Office. Having that adjacency allows the Nurse to monitor those who are sick in the Isolation Room and those with other medical needs inside the Nurse's Office.

Tip #6:

Consider types of finishes for the Isolation Room. Avoid finishes like carpet or other absorbent finishes and use finishes like epoxy paint or install extra tile that you have in your attic stock that are easy to washdown and disinfect.

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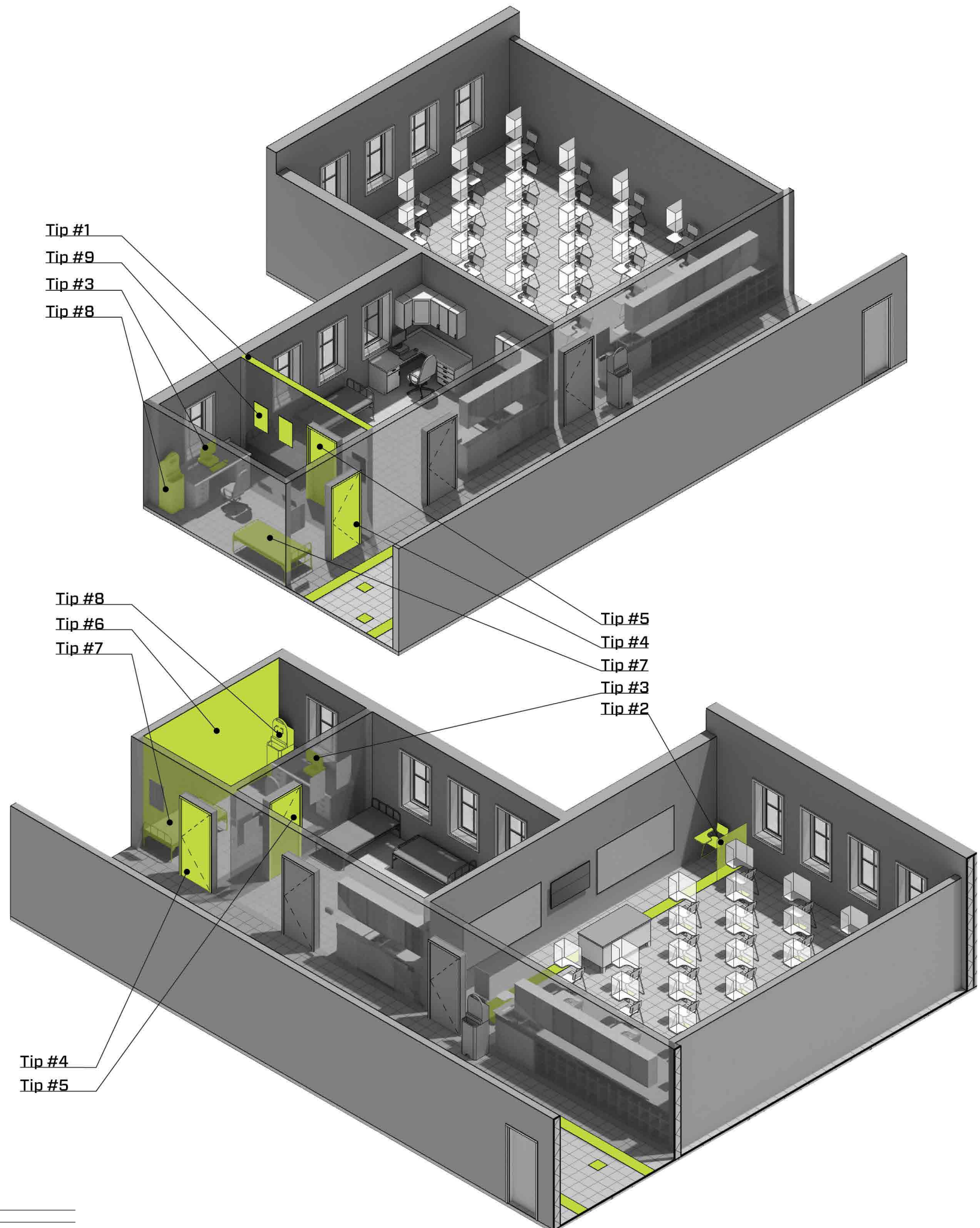
Provide a sanitizable recovery bed to allow for students who are experiencing symptoms a space to rest and await further treatment from their nurse, guardian or exterior healthcare professional.

Tip #8:

Similarly to our previous tips, adding a sanitizing station for each room will help encourage students to wash their hands frequently. This could be as simple as a hand sanitizer dispenser accessory, temporary portable hand wash station, or a fixed hand wash sink.

Tip #9:

Just like when prepping your classroom, be sure to post signs promoting hand-washing, desk sanitizing, and other protective measures that students can take to stay healthy and stop the spread.





Tips for Protecting a Healthy Facility

Protecting your facility from contamination starts at your main entry and other exterior doors. In order to keep your school healthy and safe, exterior doors need to be controlled, secured, and prepared for immediate sanitizing and screening.

Tip #1:

Use the main exterior entrance and other exterior doors as the first line of defense. Keep doors locked not only for security, but also to prevent your facility from being contaminated. Only allow entry to visitors after verification through the front desk or when deemed necessary.

Tip #2:

Use your interior vestibule doors as your second line of defense. Similar to the previous tip, keep your doors locked and keep visitors contained in your vestibule so they can be screened prior to final entry into the rest of the building.

Tip #3:

Have a receptionist or other administrative staff control and verify entry of all visitors. Conduct screenings including a questionnaire and temperature checks. Provide a secured window to allow for screening, verification, and views to the entrance. Include a counter or table inside the vestibule to accommodate Personal Protective Equipment (P.P.E.) such as hand sanitizer, gloves, and a thermometer.

Tip #4:

Consider types of finishes that can be washed down and disinfected. If a visitor fails the screening process or if somebody who is sick travels through this space, you will need to be able to sanitize this area easily. Avoid finishes that are absorbant such as carpet, and instead use finishes such as epoxy, paint, and tile.

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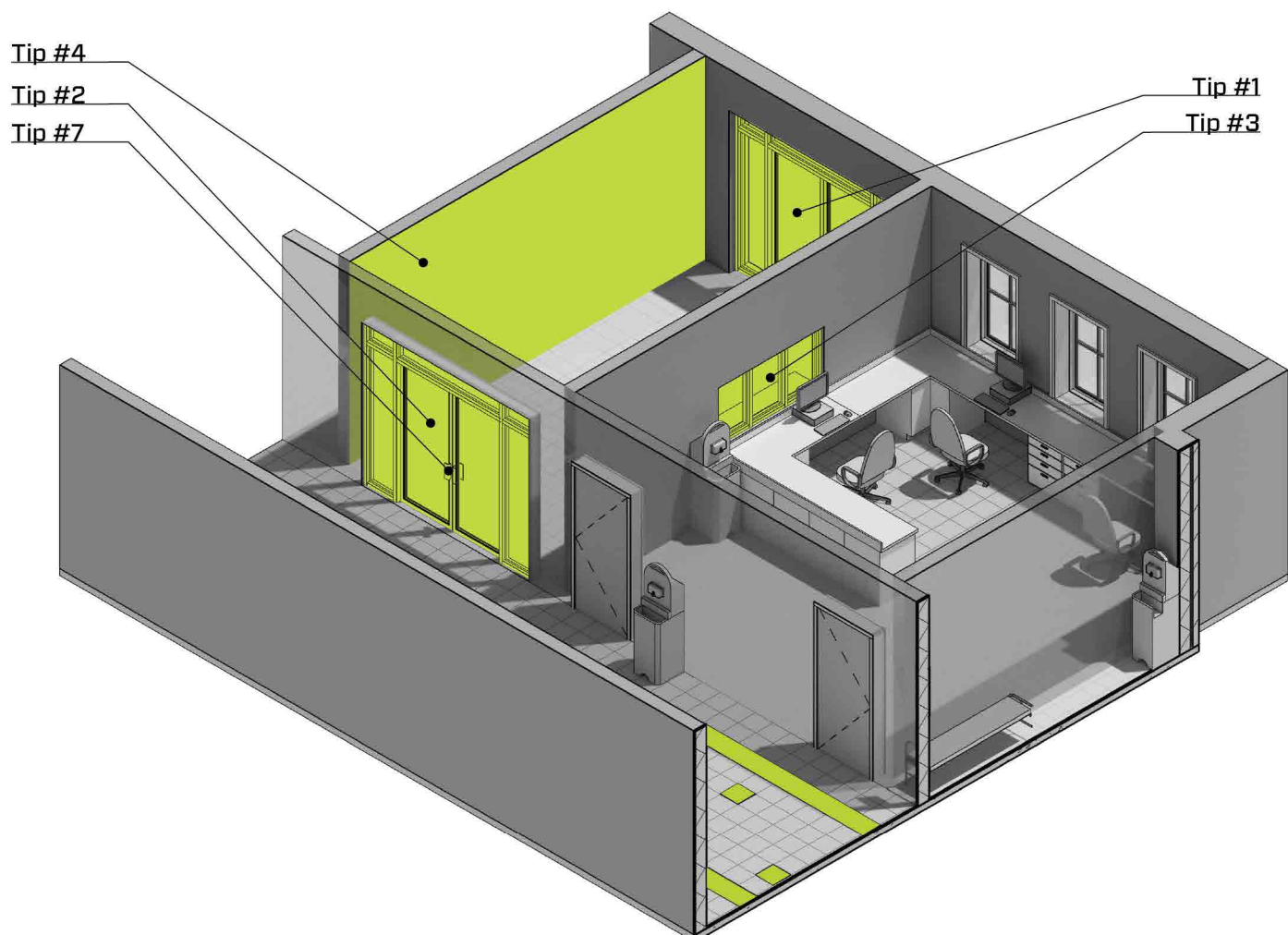
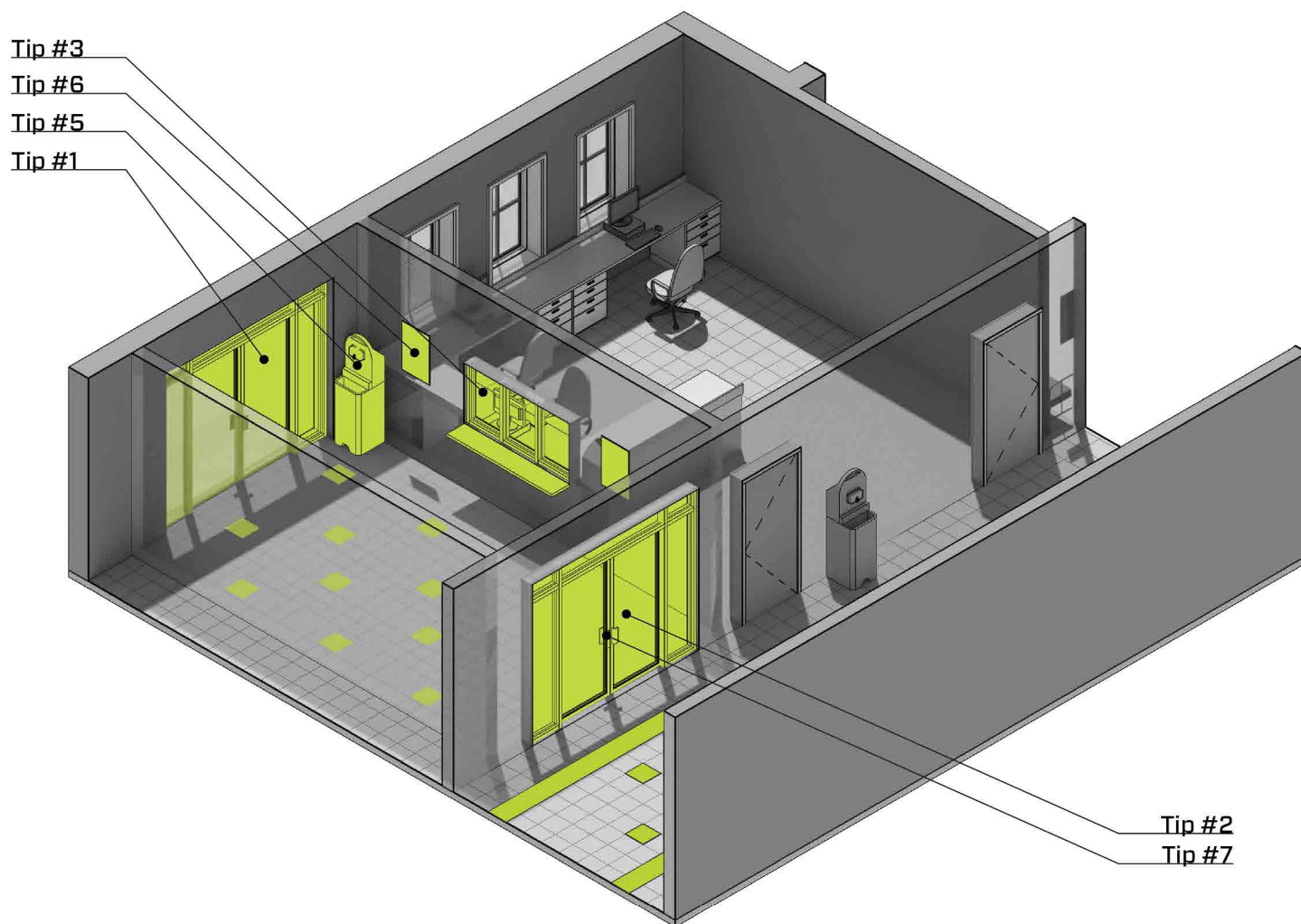
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Tip #7:

Provide and install hands free door opening hardware to ensure a limitation of direct interaction of visitors, students, and teachers alike within areas of high circulation.



Paragon Architecture has a simple, but profound mission: to improve the communities we serve through ingenuity and humility. We strive every day to #BeTheSherpa for our clients. In fact, it's our in-house motto. Those three words evoke the idea and image of what applying the Paragon Approach™ correctly looks like.

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