

COVID-19 related School Safety Guidance
Revised 10-4-2020 revised 8-25-2020 original 8-12-2020

Information

Current evidence indicates that the COVID-19 virus is transmitted through respiratory droplets or contact. Contact transmission occurs when the virus contaminated hands touch the mucosa of the mouth, nose or eyes. The virus can also be transferred from one surface to another by contaminated hands, which facilitates indirect contact transmission. Consequently, hand hygiene is extremely important to prevent the spread of COVID-19 virus. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol and wash with soap and water as soon as possible.

Wearing of facial mask/ facial covering can help communities slow the spread of COVID-19 when worn consistently and correctly by a majority of people in public settings; particularly when face masks/ covers are properly used along with other preventive measures, including social distancing, frequent handwashing, cleaning and disinfecting.

To properly wear a face mask/ face cover, wash and dry your hands before and after touching or adjusting the mask, touch only the bands or ties when putting on and taking off your mask, ***make sure the mask fits to cover your nose, mouth and chin.***

Communication

The Responsible Parties at any school district/ BOCES, will communicate directly with members of the Cayuga County Health Department regarding COVID-19 issues and protocols. The primary COVID-19 contacts at the Cayuga County Health Department are:

Kevin Zippel, PhD., RN Supervising Community Health Nurse

Nancy Purdy, BSN, RN Director of Community Health Services

The Cayuga County Health Department designates (315)-253-1560 for primary use which is answered at the office during typical working hours and after hours by a 24 hour 7 day a week answering service who will contact appropriate personnel as requested. The Cayuga County Health Department fax number is 315-253-1156.

The Responsible Parties at any school district/ BOCES will communicate with the Cayuga County Health Department for any COVID -19 related concerns and questions pertinent to the operations of their districts including but not limited to the public health and well-being of the District's students and employees.

The Cayuga County Health Department will communicate with the Responsible Parties at any school district/ BOCES regarding COVID-19 related information or concerns pertinent to the

public health and well-being of the District's students, faculty and staff; including but not limited to quarantine and isolation of students and employees.

The Responsible Parties at any school district/BOCES will communicate with the Cayuga County Health Department when learning from a staff member, student or parent that they have tested positive for COVID-19. In turn, the Cayuga County Health Department will verify the information is accurate before contact investigation is launched within the school district/BOCES

The Cayuga County Health Department and school shall provide each other with updates as to the progress of the investigation. The school Superintendent and designated Health Department team member will be the point of contact during the investigation process to provide consistency of information sharing and updates.

Definitions

Close Contact- a close contact is defined as anyone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 10 minutes starting from 48 hours before the person began feeling sick until the time the patient was isolated.

Contact Tracing- interview a person having been diagnosed with a COVID-19 infection to determine whom they may have been contact with during the timeframe of being infectious in order to prevent spreading of the infection. Contact tracing is led by the Cayuga County Health Department. The school will be required to provide attendance records, contact information and other supportive information as requested to the health department.

Incubation Period- the interval between the time of invasion by an infectious agent and appearance of the first sign or symptom of the disease in question. For SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19), the incubation period is on average 4-5 days but may be as long as 14 days. 5% of persons will develop symptoms in 2 days; 50% of persons will develop symptoms in 5 days; 95 % will develop symptoms within 14 days.

Infectious Period- period of time during which a case is able to transmit a disease to others. The infectious period for COVID 19 starts 2 days before someone develops symptoms; is most infectious day of symptom onset; and infectiousness wanes over the course of 10 days.

Infectivity of COVID-19 - is determined by its reproduction number, or R0 (pronounced R naught), which current epidemiological estimates suggest lies between 1.5 to 3. This means that every COVID-19 patient may infect up to three other people on average.

Isolation- the Health Department will require, through public health order, a person to go into mandatory isolation who has tested positive for COVID-19 and shall be monitored by the health department.

Proximate Contact - is defined as anyone within the same enclosed environment, such as a classroom, office or gathering, for 60 minutes or more with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19. The total minutes across the infectious period will determine the need for quarantine

Precautionary Quarantine- A resident of New York State (NYS) returning from travel to a designated state for designated period of time or an international traveler arriving to NYS are required to quarantine for 14 days. It is possible having traveled to these areas, the traveler is a proximate contact of a positive Covid-19 individual(s).

Self- Care- ability to promote health, prevent disease, maintain health, and cope with illness and disability with or without the support of a health-care provider.

Social Distancing- also called physical distancing, means keeping a safe space between yourself and other people who are not from your household. To practice social or physical distancing, stay at least 6 feet away from other people who are not from your household in both indoor and outdoor spaces.

Quarantine- the Health Department will require a person having proximate or close contact to a positive Covid-19 person to mandatory quarantine, through public health order, and will monitor person for development of symptoms. Separating people and limiting movement of people who have or may have been exposed can help to prevent spread of illness from people with COVID-19 before they feel ill or have symptoms.

Screening

The Responsible Parties at any school district/ BOCES will monitor daily the employees, students and necessary visitors for symptoms of COVID-19, to include daily screening before entering the school buildings.

Employees and students should be encouraged to self-monitor for symptoms such as fever, chills, cough, scratchy or sore throat, a new loss of taste/smell, headache, and gastrointestinal symptoms. Refer to the New York State Department of Health COVID-19 Pre-K to Gr 12 COVID-19 Toolkit dated September 2020 for more symptom information.

https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/10/prek-gr12_toolkit.pdf

Employees and students are not to attend school if feeling ill

Testing

COVID-19 testing is contingent upon availability of specimen collection material, appropriate Personal Protective Equipment and laboratory capacity. As such, the specific recommendations

for specimen collection sites may be altered to reflect resources, timeliness of analysis and response. It is recommended all people seeking a COVID-19 test call in advance to schedule their appointment and assure health care personnel are appropriately attired. Additional opportunities for COVID-19 testing may become available over time. Contact your health care provider or urgent care center if you do not feel well and may need COVID-19 testing.

At the time this plan is written, here are local resources for COVID-19 testing.
At all testing sites bring your health insurance card if you have one.

- Personal HealthCare provider
- Federally Qualifying Health Care Center:
 - East Hill Family Medical Center in Auburn
315-253-8477
 - Family Health Network in Moravia
315-497-9066
 - Port Byron Community Health Care Center in Port Byron
315-531-9102
- Cayuga County Urgent Care Centers including:
 - FingerLakes Medical Urgent Care Center
303 Grant Ave.
Auburn, NY
315-258-7100
 - Urgent Care of Auburn
37 West Garden St., Suite 105
Auburn, NY
315-252-0000
 - WellNow Urgent Care Center
271 Grant Ave.
Auburn, NY
315-704-6097
- Out of county testing sites:
 - Upstate University Health System
Syracuse
315-464-2582

Syracuse Community Health Center
819 South Salina St., Syracuse
Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm and Saturdays 9am-1pm.
No appointment necessary

Cayuga Medical Associates
Ithaca, NY
Appointment and Registration: cayugahealth.org/
Or call 607-319-5708.
Appointment is required and testing criteria must be met

Call the NYS Department of Health hotline number for additional sites:
1-888-364-3065

Contact Tracing

The Responsible Parties at any school district/ BOCES will immediately notify the Cayuga County Health Department (CHHD) upon being informed of any positive COVID-19 test result by an individual in school facilities or on school grounds, including employees, students, and visitors. The CCHD will verify the person has tested positive.

The Cayuga County Health Department will lead the COVID-19 contact tracing effort partnering with the Responsible Parties at any school district/BOCES to provide names, addresses, phone numbers of pertinent people. Additionally, the Responsible Parties at any school district/BOCES will be required to provide attendance records, contact information and other supportive information as requested to the health department.

If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in school, the Responsible Parties at any school district/ BOCES may choose to temporarily move instruction to a remote format until all contacts can be identified, notified and placed in quarantine.

The CCHD will notify the Responsible Parties at any school district/ BOCES of any positive or quarantined employees or students.

Scenarios

Refer to the New York State Department of Health COVID-19 Pre-K to Gr 12 COVID-19 Toolkit dated September 2020 for more symptom information.

https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/10/prek-gr12_toolkit.pdf

Cleaning and Disinfection

Based on data from lab studies on COVID-19, it may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes. However, the primary mode of transmission for COVID-19 is through close contact from person-to-person.

Coronaviruses on surfaces and objects naturally die within hours to days. Normal routine cleaning with soap and water removes many germs and dirt from surfaces. Disinfectants kill germs on surfaces. Killing germs on a surface after cleaning can further lower the risk of spreading the virus.

The following practices will be utilized by the Responsible Parties at any school district/ BOCES to reduce the risk of community spread of COVID-19 and other contagious germs.

The Responsible Parties at any school district/ BOCES will follow these practices to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other contagions:

- Daily routine cleaning of surfaces with disinfectants shall be conducted throughout the school

If a student or employee becomes ill:

- Close off areas internal to the building used by the person who is sick.
- Wait 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting, unless waiting 24 hours is not feasible, then wait as long as possible. Clean and disinfect commonly touched areas used by the ill person like desk, locker, bathroom office, keyboards, mouse, telephones etc.. Allow the areas to dry before reuse.
- Wait 24 hours to vacuum the space if needed. When vacuuming routinely or as part of extra cleaning, temporarily turn off room fans and if possible turn off the central HVAC system that services the room or space, so that particles that escape from vacuuming will not circulate throughout the facility.

Regular use of the room and objects may continue after disinfection.