



# *Department of Public Health*

Monroe County, New York

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## **NEW YORK STATE REQUIREMENTS FOR REOPENING SCHOOLS as of 8/6/2020**

The Public Health Departments of the Finger Lakes are committed to supporting our area schools based on input from the New York State Department of Health and the New York State Education Department. This document is regularly reviewed among all counties listed below to ensure consistent guidance is available to our schools. The Public Health Departments for the counties of Chemung, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates believe that providing consistent guidance throughout the region will assist in facing the challenges of COVID-19. This communication is intended to serve as an informational tool only to support districts developing reopening plans in accordance with New York State guidance. Districts should review the NYSDOH guidance closely and consult their counsel for legal advice.

- Face coverings are recommended at all times, but required whenever individuals cannot maintain a six-foot distance from other individuals who are not from the same household.
- Schools must ensure six (6) feet of space in all directions between individuals at all times unless there is an appropriate barrier (ie, plexiglass, a cubicle wall, etc.) between them.
- For certain activities, the minimum required distance between individuals is increased to twelve (12) feet in all directions. Examples include singing, playing wind instruments, and aerobic exercise.
- Face coverings must be worn on buses at all times (entering, exiting and seated) and individuals must maintain a six-foot distance from other individuals who are not from the same household.
- Temperature checks are required daily for all students, faculty and staff. It is highly recommended this be done before arrival at school (which will involve parents).
- Faculty and staff reporting to school must answer a daily screening questionnaire. Students must periodically be given screening questionnaires.
- Schools must train all students, faculty and staff on proper hand and respiratory hygiene.
- Schools must maintain logs of cleaning and disinfection frequency.

- Schools must notify the state and local health departments immediately upon learning of a positive COVID-19 test among students, faculty, staff or visitors. Schools must cooperate with contact tracing, isolation and quarantine efforts.
- When an individual exhibits symptoms consistent with COVID-19 during a screening, that individual must immediately be separated from others and sent home. The individual cannot return to school without, at minimum: documentation from a health care provider, a negative COVID-19 test and symptom resolution. If an individual receives a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, the individual must wait to be released from isolation before returning.
- Schools should follow NYS workplace guidance for faculty or staff members who are seeking to return to work after a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 or after close contact with a person with COVID-19.
- For a COVID-19 confirmed case, LHD takes lead on isolation/quarantine and release.
- LHDs will respond and perform thorough investigation including contact tracing with cooperation from the school.
- LHD will provide recommendations to the school regarding action plans in response to a COVID-19 positive case.
- LHDs will not disclose personal information for those testing positive for COVID-19. All relevant parties will be notified appropriately by the school or through contact tracing by the LHD. LHDs will notify the community of a positive student case by identifying the name of the school building impacted. LHDs will notify the community of a positive faculty/staff case by identifying the name of the school district.
- LHDs will notify the superintendent and school nurse of all mandatory quarantines for students, staff and faculty after notifying the individual and/or family.
- LHDs do not automatically consider teachers and school staff to be essential workers. A determination needs to be made on a case-by-case basis with the LHD and school, pending guidance from NYSDOH.
- When a student presents with symptoms requiring a visit to the school nurse, LHDs recommend immediate isolation and sending the student home as soon as possible.
- School Districts should continue to rely upon the guidance of their medical directors. The LHDs will support schools in complying with NYSDOH guidance and recommendations.