



FAQ Bulletin for COVID-19: Week 2 (August 17th – 21st)

Medical Director: Dr. Robert Morgan

Supporting NPs: Brenda LaMay, Alison Fluman and Cindy Jeffries

- **Are students allowed to bring backpacks to school?**

(Page 2)

- **Can students use the library, borrow books, and how do you properly sanitize books?** (Page 2)
-

- **Are face shield adequate PPE?** (Page 3)
-

- **Are the use of nebulizers and inhalers safe during the pandemic?** (Page 3)
-

Are students allowed to bring backpacks to school?

Backpacks and other bags that travel from home to school and back again are discouraged because of the risk of virus transmission. The goal is to have as few items as possible that need to travel to and from school. Students will be able to leave school supplies, boots, change of clothes, etc. in their desks, or in provided areas by the school so there is no need to have a backpack. Also, it is recommended students use disposable brown paper bags in the place of the lunch pails, again, to limit the amount of items going to and from school/home.

Can students use the library, borrow books, and how do you properly sanitize books?

It is not recommended for students to gather in the library, and it is imperative to enforce social distancing, mask use and hand washing prior to entering and exiting the library. There will be no loitering in the library.

Consider use of smaller groups socially distanced in a library classroom, and library specialists should pull the pre-selected books prior to students arriving and distribute them to students to prevent excessive handling. It is not recommended to be bringing books back and forth from school to home. Therefore, students will get the book, bring it home and leave it until it is time to be returned, or they will keep it at their desk until it is time to be returned.

Preliminary research suggests that the COVID-19 virus can only survive on surfaces for 2-3 days, and on paper/cardboard for 24 hours. Sources for how to disinfect books include the Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC), which recommends at least a 72 hour quarantine of returned books including: plain paper pages inside a book, paperback and hardback book covers, DVD cases, archival folders, and plastic book coverings. The NEDCC recommends a 4-day quarantine for reading material that contains: glossy book pages, magazine pages, children's board books, and braille paper pages. It is not recommended to wipe down uncoated paper or cardboard with Clorox or disinfecting solutions. Are face shields adequate PPE?

Are face shields adequate PPE?

Current CDC guidelines do not support wearing a face shield alone because they do not offer complete protection from small respiratory droplets. However face shields used in combination with a mask does offer extra protection. Masks are mandatory and should be combined with social distancing, hand washing, and regular surface disinfecting in order to protect against COVID-19. Please consider using face shields that have an attached mask at the bottom that ties behind the neck, these may be appropriate for staff and students that cannot tolerate a traditional mask.

Are the use of nebulizers and inhalers safe during the pandemic?

Recommendations from the NYS department of health state MDIs should be used with spacers to minimize risk of COVID transmission. Inhalers with spacers should be used in place of nebulizers when possible. Nebulizer treatments at school should be reserved for those who cannot use an MDI with a spacer in the case of an absolute emergency. Treatments such as nebulized medication treatments and oral or tracheostomy suctioning create aerosols which may contain the COVID-19 virus. Therefore, these procedures should be avoided as much as possible. Current CDC recommendations mandate a separate room needs to be used for these procedures and the air quality/air change needs to be evaluated to determine downtime in the selected room to ensure safety. Also, the room would need time to sit undisturbed while the droplets settle and then it would need to be terminally cleaned in between each use following CDC recommendations. Nurses would also require more extensive PPE while performing these tasks such as an N95 mask, goggles, face shield, gown, gloves, and cleaning supplies.