



FAQ Bulletin for COVID-19: Week 3 (August 24th – 28th)

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- **What if students or staff can't or won't wear a mask?**

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- **If a student presents to the nurse with COVID-19 like symptoms will the student's siblings who live in the same home be sent home as well?**

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- **While school is in session, will students be able to use playground equipment during the COVID-19 pandemic?**

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- **Are Gaiters an acceptable face covering?**

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What if students or staff can't wear a mask?

Masks are strongly encouraged and it is very important parents, student and staff take the time to find a mask that is most comfortable and effective. There are many different types of masks including: disposable paper, cloth with elastic, cloth with ties, different face shields with an attached mask or a mask underneath, mask with clear section over the mouth, etc. The 3 main concepts that need to be followed in order to help prevent a COVID-19 outbreak include: **wearing masks, hand washing and social distancing.**

We support the districts mask breaks process and understand there are times a student may struggle and need an extra break. If a student refuses to wear any kind of face mask that covers both the mouth and nose, virtual learning may be a safer alternative and should be explored.

If a student presents to the nurse with COVID-19 like symptoms will the student's siblings who live in the same home be sent home as well?

In concert with the DOH guidelines siblings living in the same household and are not displaying symptoms may remain in school. If the symptomatic student tests positive for COVID-19 all other siblings will be taken out of in-person learning and tested for COVID-19 as well and follow quarantine until released by the county health department.

While school is in session, will students be able to use playground equipment during the COVID-19 pandemic?

It is recommended not to use playground equipment during school hours at this time because of the difficulty with social distancing, frequent hand washing, and cleaning equipment between students. All of these components are necessary in order to promote safety and prevent the spread of COVID.

Are Gaiters an acceptable face covering?

Per the NYSDOH Guidance, p. 2, “Acceptable face coverings include but are not limited to cloth-based face coverings (e.g. homemade sewn, quick cut, bandana) and surgical masks that cover both the mouth and nose.” Therefore, as long as the Gaiters cover the mouth and nose, yes they are acceptable.

However, please consider, the most recent research studies have shown that because some of the more light weight Gaiters are made from a porous thin stretchy material they do not restrict air-flow as well as the multilayer sewn or cloth masks. Thus allowing a high respiratory droplet count to pass through it which may render it less effective.

Can teachers hang posters in their classrooms?

Current COVID guidance recommends limiting objects in the classroom droplets/particles may settle on. However, laminated posters or pictures that are hung out of the way so they aren’t being frequently handled or touched and that can be wiped down at the end of the day are ok for use

If a parent calls the attendance office to report a student is out sick, what happens next?

The school is encouraged to develop a process to identify children out of school for an alleged illness and determine if following DOH recommendations (outlined below) apply regarding COVID-19 symptoms.

The DOH and NYSED guidance from the NYSED FAQ updated 07/22/20 recommends students who screen positive for COVID-19 symptoms be removed from in-person learning until they complete the “returning to learning protocol which must include at a minimum documentation of evaluation by a healthcare provider, negative COVID-19 testing, and symptom resolution.”