



# Department of Public Health

*Monroe County, New York*

**Adam J. Bello**  
*County Executive*

**Michael D. Mendoza, MD, MPH, MS**  
*Commissioner of Public Health*

## **NEW YORK STATE REQUIREMENTS FOR REOPENING SCHOOLS**

**Monday, July 20, 2020**

The Monroe County Department of Public Health is providing the following key takeaways from The New York State Department of Health *Interim Guidance for In-Person Instruction at Pre-K to Grade 12 Schools*, dated July 13, 2020. 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 appropriate social distancing.
- 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 also 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.

111 Westfall Road • Room 950 • Rochester, New York 14620

(585) 753-2991 • fax: (585) 753-5115 • [www.monroecounty.gov](http://www.monroecounty.gov) • e-mail: [mchealth@monroecounty.gov](mailto:mchealth@monroecounty.gov)