



CHARTER SCHOOLS WEBINAR
7.31.20

NYCDOE CHARTER SCHOOL OFFICE
DOHMH
NYC CHARTER SCHOOL CENTER



**Department of
Education**

Agenda:

- **Welcome**
- **Presentation**
- **Q & A**

7.31.20

Please note that some of this information may change as we continue to prepare for the school year.

CONTEXT

Plans will need to be flexible to adapt to the changing health and policy landscape.

DOE is working closely with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) to coordinate efforts and ensure that we are ready for a coordinated school reopening.

The key tenets of NYCDOE's plan align to CDC guidance and NY State on school reopening. In addition to these public health protocols, we are prioritizing mental health, social-emotional learning and trauma-informed supports for all schools.

KEY TENETS OF PLAN

A Promoting Behaviors that Reduce Spread

- Physical Distancing
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Hand Hygiene
- Signage and Floor Markings

C Maintaining Healthy Operations

- Screening Testing
- Staff Utilization
- School Programming
- Partnerships

B Maintaining Healthy Environments

- Changes to School Building
- Cleaning and disinfection

D Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick

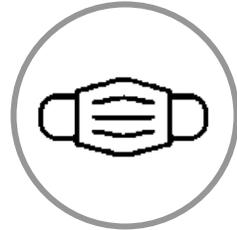
- Stay Home When Sick
- Responses to Symptoms or Positive Case
- Contact Tracing
- Closure Triggers

A PROMOTING BEHAVIORS THAT REDUCE SPREAD



Physical Distancing

All people in schools to remain at least 6 feet apart and create conditions for compliance.



Wear a Face Covering

Require face coverings while inside buildings.

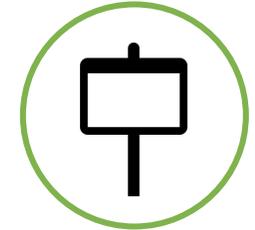
Exceptions will be developmentally appropriate and will be paired with heightened PPE for staff.

Provide disposable face coverings to students and staff.



Keep Hands Clean

Provide increased access and multiple opportunities to wash hands or use hand sanitizer.



Signage and Floor Markings

Ensure schools have adequate signage that upholds the DOHMH Four Core Actions for Prevention.

A PROMOTING BEHAVIORS THAT REDUCE SPREAD

Physical Distancing

- Ensure that social distancing (of at least 6 ft. or a physical barrier) is maintained between individuals while in school facilities and on school grounds, including in the cafeteria, unless safety or the core activity (e.g., moving equipment, using an elevator, traveling in common areas) requires a shorter distance or individuals are of the same household.
- If social distancing is not possible, individuals must wear acceptable face coverings; excluding students who are unable to medically tolerate a face covering.
- Be prepared to don a face covering if another person unexpectedly cannot socially distance; for this reason, individuals – including students – must wear face coverings in common areas, such as entrances/exits, lobbies, and when traveling around the school.
- Modify or reconfigure spaces and/or restrict the use of classrooms and other places where students, faculty, and staff congregate, so that individuals are at least 6 ft. apart in all directions (e.g. side-to-side and when facing one another), or separated by physical barriers, and are not sharing workstations without cleaning and disinfection between use.
- Ensure a distance of 12 ft. between individuals while participating in activities that require projecting the voice (e.g. singing), playing a wind instrument, or participating in aerobic activity (e.g. gym classes).
- Best practices to implement in shared (communal) bathrooms include but are not limited to:
 - Install physical barriers between toilets and sinks if 6 ft. of separation isn't feasible. For youngers grades, pods can be effective if small numbers and static.
 - Use paper towel dispensers in lieu of air dryers.

A PROMOTING BEHAVIORS THAT REDUCE SPREAD

Physical Distancing

- Recommend that student drop off and pick up is done outside the building to minimize the number of external visitors.
- Recommend that nonessential visitors do not enter school building. Limit frequency and duration of other visitors.

Movement Protocols:

- Redesign movement protocols within a building to minimize congestion and designate one-way direction stairwells and single file routes.

A PROMOTING BEHAVIORS THAT REDUCE SPREAD

Face Coverings

- Provide acceptable face coverings to faculty and staff who directly interact with students or members of the public while at work at no cost to faculty/staff; and provide face coverings to any student who does not have their own, at no cost to the student.
- Train all students, faculty, and staff on how to adequately put on, take, off clean (as applicable), and discard PPE.
- Faculty may use alternate face coverings (i.e. face coverings that are transparent at or around the mouth) for instruction that requires visualization of the movement of the lips and/or mouths (e.g. speech therapy). These coverings may also be used for certain students (e.g. hearing impaired) who benefit from seeing more of the face of faculty/staff.
- Face shields are not acceptable as alternative for face covering.
- Face coverings with valves are not acceptable.
- For students who can't tolerate masks, schools need to think about accommodations. (*Schools may consider having smaller pods for these students and make parents aware*).

A PROMOTING BEHAVIORS THAT REDUCE SPREAD

Hand Hygiene

- Place hand sanitizer in convenient locations (e.g. building, classroom, and cafeteria entrances/exits), and install touch-free dispensers where possible.
- Place receptacles around the school for disposal of soiled items, including PPE.
- As make as possible, make hand hygiene a part of the curriculum and build it in to the schedule.

Signage and Floor Markings

- One-way traffic in the hallways and stairwells
- Signage about cough and hand hygiene (*link in DOH page*)

B MAINTAINING HEALTHY ENVIRONMENTS

Changes to School Building:

- Modify or configure spaces to ensure compliance with physical distancing rules.
- Ensure your school has a designated Isolation Room.
- DOE will issue guidance for charter schools in co-located space

Cleaning and Disinfection:

- Schools will need to implement enhanced cleaning and disinfection of surfaces to ensure the health and safety of staff and students.

Food Services:

- Grab-and-go meals will be available for breakfast and lunch each day, though students will also be permitted to bring their own lunch if preferred. Doing so will allow for more flexibility so students and physical distancing can be maintained during lunch time, a time when many students usually gather in one location. Grab-and-go meals will be delivered to students in 3K to K classrooms, and pickup points within the school will be designated for grades 1-12.
- Lunch will be in classrooms to minimize interaction between groups of students.

C MAINTAINING HEALTHY OPERATIONS

Screening:

- Implement mandatory health screenings, including temperature checks, of students, faculty, staff, and, where applicable, contractors, vendors, and visitors. These screenings should ideally take place at home before departing for school and be reported to school remotely.
- Ensure that personnel performing in-person screening activities are appropriately protected from exposure.
- Use a daily screening questionnaire for faculty and staff reporting to school; and periodically use a questionnaire for students, particularly younger students, who may require the assistance of their parent/legal guardian to answer. The questionnaire should determine whether the individual has:
 - a) Knowingly been in close or proximate contact in the past 14 days with anyone who has tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19
 - b) Tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 in the past 10 days;
 - c) Has experienced a fever of 100.0 degrees F or greater, a new cough, new loss of taste or smell or shortness of breath within the past 10 days; and/or
 - d) Has traveled internationally or from a state with widespread community transmission of COVID-19 per the New York State Travel Advisory in the past 14 days.

C MAINTAINING HEALTHY OPERATIONS

Screening (Continued):

- Any individual who screens positive for COVID-19 exposure or symptoms, or who presents with a temperature greater than 100.0°F, must not be allowed to enter the school if screened outside, and must be immediately sent home with instructions to contact their health care provider for assessment and testing.
- Students sent home because of a positive symptoms must be immediately separate from other students and supervised until picked up.
- Immediately notify the state and local health department about the case if diagnostic test results are positive for COVID-19.
- Currently the NYC Health Department recommends an isolation period for COVID-19 confirmed cases of at least 10 days after symptom onset, with the last 24 hours without fever (without using fever reducing medicines), and an overall reduction in symptoms; for those who never had symptoms, isolation is 10 days from the date of their COVID-19 test (the specimen collection date).

C MAINTAINING HEALTHY OPERATIONS

Staff Utilization

- Close gathering spaces if physical distancing is not possible (staff lounge, etc.)

School Programming

- The same guidelines apply to before/aftercare are the same as in school requirements
- Outdoor activities as much as possible

Partnerships

- Reduce the number of nonessential staff as much as possible

D PREPARING FOR WHEN SOMEONE GETS SICK

Stay Home When Sick:

- Staff members and students should stay home when sick.

Responses to Symptoms (fever, new onset cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste and smell) or Positive Cases:

- Schools must follow district protocols for responding to instances of symptoms, unconfirmed cases, one confirmed case, and two or more confirmed cases. (*charter schools in doe space*)
- Develop protocols for caring for a student, faculty, or staff member who develops COVID-19 symptoms during the school day, including:
 - Identifying an isolation room to separate students, faculty, or staff with symptoms of COVID-19 from others until they can go home or to a health care facility, depending on severity of illness;
 - Plans to ensure that symptomatic students waiting to be picked up remain under the visual supervision of a staff member who is physically distanced and has a face covering;
 - PPE requirements for school health office staff caring for sick individuals, which must include both standard and transmission-based precautions.

D PREPARING FOR WHEN SOMEONE GETS SICK

Contact Tracing:

- Contract tracing will be an important component of keeping our communities and our schools safe.
- The NYC Test + Trace team will be coordinating with schools to operationalize protocols.
- If you know about a lab-confirmed case in student or staff member, you can call DOHMH to report and an investigation will be initiated if the case is confirmed
- DOHMH may reach out to school principal if case is known to DOHMH first
- Only act on knowledge of a confirmed case by DOHMH
- DOHMH will help school with contact tracing and investigation
- Quarantine class (es) that case attended; teacher may not be quarantined if physical distance was maintained
- If 2 or more cases within 14 days in same school; close school for 24 hours for DOHMH investigation and open according to DOHMH recommendations as result of investigation

D PREPARING FOR WHEN SOMEONE GETS SICK

Closure Triggers:

- **What is the threshold that schools in NYC must use in terms of % of students/staff being exposed that would trigger a school building closure?** DOHMH would make this recommendation depending on investigation, is there transmission at school or are cases due to community transmission.
- **What is the threshold that schools in NYC must use in terms of % of students/staff being exposed that would trigger a pod or section of the building closure?** Pods/classes will quarantine for 14 days if confirmed case.
- **Will there be a review/inspection process by DOH following a pod, section or whole school site closure?** DOHMH investigation could or could not include physical inspection if needed.
- **Who will tell us how many days we must close for and who needs to isolate/quarantine/be tested in the case of a confirmed COVID case in the school community?** DOHMH will let you know.
- **Are there specific cleaning protocols that must be followed if a pod, section, or whole school is closed before school can reopen?** Regular and routine cleaning. NYS/CDC suggest this should be done 24 hours after case last present if possible.

Q & A