



# Onondaga County Health Department

J. Ryan McMahon II, County Executive  
Indu Gupta, MD, MPH, Commissioner of Health

John H. Mulroy Civic Center · 421 Montgomery Street, Syracuse, NY 13202  
Phone 315.435.3155 · Fax 315.435.5720



## Onondaga County Health Department's Revised Quarantine Guidelines for All Onondaga County Schools Districts: Feb 6, 2021

### Important considerations:

1. Close contact is defined as:
  - a. 6 ft X 10 minutes with or without mask.
  - b. 6 ft X 15 minutes cumulative within 24 hrs with or without mask.
2. Recommend to have individual student (s) **assigned seats to** identify close contacts as in (1).
3. Importance of whether case is symptomatic or asymptomatic.
4. Importance whether there is an outbreak (2 or more clusters in the same school within 14 days period).
5. Strict observance of mask.
6. Infection rates in Onondaga County.
7. Increased rates of hospitalizations in Onondaga County.
8. Spread of new variance of SARS-CoV-2 virus in Onondaga county.
9. *So far we have not seen any evidence of transmission of SARS-CoV2 in schools of Onondaga County, however with start of winter high-risk sports, we will be closely monitoring infections within the sports team with the concern for transmission of infection in the school community.*

### K-12 Students : if no seat assignments

Symptomatic case in the classrooms:

- MQ students after 2 hour in a room, regardless of size, seating arrangements
- Teachers and TAs: MQ teacher after 2 hours in a room, regardless of size, seating arrangements

Asymptomatic case in the classroom: No MQ for teacher or students if

- School Administrator attests for use of mask and strict adherence of seating of 6 ' or more between students
- Notifies everyone of positive case and monitoring of symptoms for ten days after exposure.

### K-12 students with known seat assignments in each class:

Required: Attestation of strict adherence of mask wearing and physical distancing of 6 ' between students and with the teachers by the school administrator.

- For symptomatic case: Only those adjacent to the case can be considered for mandatory quarantine for 10 days. The rest of the class should be notified with recommendation to monitor for signs/symptoms for 10 days after exposure.
- For asymptomatic case: No mandatory quarantine will be required. A notification to the class still will be required.

### Lunch:

Lunch: masks typically off, so MQ students adjacent to the case (if known), but not the whole group, no MQ staffs as they wear mask and lunch period is < 1 hr.

### Gym:

Typically wearing masks, 12ft spacing in gym class, so no MQ regardless of length of gym class- unless they are doing contact sports & getting closer than 6 ft- then review case by case.

### Buses (all ages):

- MQ only if in adjacent seats (in front, behind, directly across) for over 15 min
- Shorter rides, or individuals sitting farther away: no MQ.

### Staff (COVID+ “staff to staff” exposures):

Use general rule of MQ for:

- 10 minutes exposure within 6 feet and with or with out mask
- 15 cumulative minutes (in 24 hr period) closer than 6ft, regardless of mask usage or room size.

School will continue to Discuss with Health Dept K-12 investigating team and email information as before to k-12 email box and upload documents to the portal.

### References:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7004e3.htm>
- <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/early/2021/01/06/peds.2020-048090.full.pdf>
- <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2775875>
- <https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/risk-comms-updates/update39-covid-and-schools.pdf>