

8. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Team Leader(s): Robert Hodge

Task Force Members: Allan Wakefield, Peter LaDuca, James Clark, Jamal Scott, Yohana Arevalo, Joy Vanhook, Winsome Brown-Cooke

Considerations	Plan 1 – Return to School	Plan 2 – Blended & Remote
Masks:		
As N95 respirators become available, prioritize this equipment for nurses and others in high risk positions		
Extend use times of undamaged, non-visibly soiled PPE, and implement expanded facility-based PPE re-use policies and procedures		
Adapt and implement CDC strategies for healthcare to optimize the supply of PPE and equipment, and best practices to sustain PPE supplies		
Implement decontamination and reuse strategies of filtering facepiece respirators as contingency and crisis capacity measures		
Understand and track PPE requirements and burn rates. Utilize the CDC's PPE burn rate calculator		
What is the district's policy regarding the use of face masks?		
Post how to wear a facemask correctly (see BOCES document)		
Post how to put on and remove a facemask correctly (see BOCES)		
Cloth mask should be routinely washed		

Obtaining Masks for Schools:		
Work with normal and alternate private sector suppliers to obtain PPE. It may be necessary to identify multiple options for suppliers and prioritize near-term versus long-term needs		
If suppliers are unable to provide for your needs, and the PPE is urgently required, submit a request for assistance to your local or state emergency management agencies. If local emergency management is unable to address the PPE shortfall, they can relay it to the state. If the state is unable to address, they can submit a request for support to their FEMA Regional Response Coordination Center Examples: - AED Superstore (App. \$6.45/50 Honeywell - 3M Kimberley Clark		
Pay attention to well-known sellers of surgical masks/masks		
Local Suppliers may be a faster avenue for obtaining masks		
Although a school district might order cases of masks, FEMA oversees allotting masks to schools. A school may only receive a portion of their ordered masks at a time		
All students, faculty and staff must be trained on using the PPE that they are required to wear. The training program should include the importance of masks, how to properly put them on and off and how to properly clean/disinfect them		
Consider mask alternatives for students and staff with special needs (e.g., specialized hats, face shields)		

Meeting Minutes
8. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
June 11, 2020 2:30 p.m.

Attendees: Robert Hodge, James Clark, Allan Wakefield, Peter LaDuca, Bridgett Burroughs, Yohana Arevalo, Joy Vanhook, Winsome Brown-Cooke, John Robinson, Nicole Brown, Sheena Burke, Rozella Fibleuil, Madeline Baez, Danielle Curiel Gaffney, Desiree Uzell, Lorna Barnes, Florene Toliver, Barbara Intrieri

James Clark opened the meeting with the topic of discussion on what PPE is recommended/required for the return to school. What supplies need to be ordered and stocked? The CDC recommends a face covering to be worn. Will we need to order N-95 masks?

BB: N-95's are used by nurses and people in high risk areas, usually with a disposable mask worn on top of it. This will not be needed for everyone. She recommends a cloth face mask that can be laundered

JC: Does a doctor need to prescribe it?

BB: I don't think that you need a script, it is just not necessary for everyone

AW: Is it considered a respirator?

PL: No prescription

AW: We have purchased these masks (shown on screen – disposable, hospital type face masks) in quantity. We have also ordered 800 cloth masks

BB: Are we providing masks for the staff?

AW: Employers are required to supply masks for all employees

BB: How many will be given out? One a day?

AW: At the beginning. We need to beef up our supply. We don't have the resources or funding to supply indefinitely. Hopefully we will have enough for one year. We don't know about the students yet.

BB: What about masks/gloves for the nurses? Whose budget will it come out of.

AW: I think it should come out of each building/department budget

JV: Did NYS say that the employer must supply masks?

AW: I gave two cloth masks to all of facilities so they can be laundered daily.

JV: What about students?

JC: We don't know about students yet. We will encourage parents to send them with masks. If they forget, we must supply them. It's a safety issue.

NB: Our speech teachers will need extra supplies, maybe face shields. The district will need to purchase them

JV: That would apply to all the teachers

JC: We all must maintain six feet distancing. Many will have to teach in a new way. Will nurses wear disposable gowns?

BB: Up until now we wore lay clothes. Now they should wear scrubs and always keep a change of clothes handy. They need to be washed daily. This has become a way of life for nurses today.

JC: Can you explain about the "burn-rate" calculation?

AW: Burn-rate deals with the actual consumption of the product. How quickly you will use them up. Knowing the burn-rate gives you a heads-up on when you need to reorder

BB: Every school (in Nassau) has different views on the use of the mask. How many masks will be given out – one per day?

AW: I gave each building a box of 50. I also gave them out to all of facilities. I told them to make them last. We don't know the burn rate yet. We will calculate as needed. Some people bring their own

BB: How important is it to have a mask on at all times? How often will they have to be changed?

JC: The district will follow whatever protocol is required by the state. We will talk to the doctors in the district. Everyone interprets face coverings differently. We need rules to follow and clear guidance on this issue. We all agree that it is hard to keep a mask on all day

PL: One of the problems is that we don't have SED guidance. In many districts we tell the employees to bring their own masks and if they can't they will be supplied. Handing out masks to staff every day is unattainable. No districts, so far, will be providing for the children

LB: NYS law requires us to wear masks in public. People not wearing masks make some uncomfortable. We have many personalities in the district. We must remind them that this is a state policy, not Hempstead's. And it is a face covering. Does that mean it can be a face shield? Should we be adding facemasks to the children's supply list?

PL: It is a parental decision, not a school one. The children will not keep in on all day.

JC: Guidance will be one thing, changing the culture will be another. We can only recommend where to get masks

BB: There are YouTube videos on how to make a mask out of a sock. Make it fun, maybe they will wear it. The kids can decorate them

JC: You could make it a class project or post YouTube links on the website to encourage it. What about special needs students? We will have to do this right

BB: In September all the nurses meet to discuss the medical needs of the students in the district. We have many with compromised immune systems. Parents are not going to want to send them to school. How will they know if they will keep the masks on?

LB: Asthma students pose an issue as well

JC: This is where the CDC has to step in and provide guidance

JV: Maybe we should have compromised immune student and staff in a separate area

BB: I have students in every building with issues. But maybe 10 kids per class will be enough

JC: If we see a lot of cases where the student should be taught at home we could do a blended model

JC: Superintendents in Nassau County have been meeting to discuss the use of facemasks. They are meeting with lawyers as well. Employees should bring masks if they can. There is a difference between mandating and recommending

JV: I have observed employees of the district coming to work in hospital gowns, gloves, masks, and shields. How will this affect the children?

JC: Everyone has their own opinion on what is safe and what is not

JV: New York flattened the curve because of all we have done. We have to remind people that this practice has to continue and to wear masks

LB: I live in Hempstead and I can say that people are not wearing masks. I see it in my building. We must re-educate the kids when they return

BB: I, too, live in Hempstead and I see a lot of people wearing them

JC: We need to educate the children, as well as the adults as to the importance of wearing them. And we must lead by example