

Disclaimer: This considerations document is intended to guide the school district but does not dictate the course of action. Schools must follow applicable federal, state, local and district laws and policies. **Families should consult with their health care provider regarding the health and safety of their student returning to school with a special health care need.** The health care provider and family should collaborate with the school on developing appropriate plans to accommodate the student’s special health care needs. This document is based on current research at the time of publishing on 8/10/2020.

PROCEDURE	PERSONEL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) RECOMMENDED	ACTION STEPS/CONSIDERATIONS
Feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gown, gloves, mask, face shield 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wash hands/change gloves in between feeding students Highly recommended: feed only 1 student at a time to prevent cross contamination Steps: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Wash your hands Put on gloves Wash child’s hands Prepare/position child Feed child Remove trash (soiled napkins and wipes) Wash child’s hands Clean up area Remove gloves and wash hands
Oral secretions: drooling/spitting/etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gown, gloves, mask, face shield 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wash hands with soap and water after wiping oral secretions
Toileting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gown, gloves, mask 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist only one student at a time in the restroom Two trained staff may be necessary for transferring or safety concerns. Steps: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Wash hands and put on gloves Continue wearing PPE throughout toileting and while flushing the toilet Disinfect toilet seat after each use Provide guidance for student in hand washing after toileting Remove gloves and wash hands

PROCEDURE	PERSONEL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) RECOMMENDED	ACTION STEPS/CONSIDERATIONS
Diaper changing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gown, gloves, mask 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procedures should be posted in all diaper changing areas. Steps: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Wash your hands and student’s hands Put on gloves Un-tape and remove portion of the diaper Using wipes, clean the student removing any urine or soiled material Ensure that the student’s skin is free from any urine or soil Apply new diaper Discard wipes and soiled diaper in the trash Change gloves if soiled Redress student and return the student to a secure place Wash student’s hands Remove gloves, wash hands and put on clean gloves Clean and disinfect diapering station Remove gloves and wash your hands
Gastrostomy tube feeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gown, gloves, mask, face shield or facial protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steps: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Clean and disinfect area Gather supplies Wash hands, put on gloves Prepare food item Perform procedure Discard used supplies Remove gloves and wash hands Put on clean gloves and help dress student Clean and disinfect area Remove gloves and wash your hands
Administering medication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gown, gloves, mask, face shield or facial protection (depending on student secretions/behavior) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage medications be given at home, when possible Follow ‘Safe and Legal Support of Students with Health and Medication Needs in Schools’ guidance

PROCEDURE	PERSONEL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) RECOMMENDED	ACTION STEPS/CONSIDERATIONS
Nebulizer treatments (potential aerosolized procedure)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-sleeve fluid repellent gown, N95 mask, facial protection, gloves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of inhaler with spacers are preferred over nebulizer treatments whenever possible Communicate with the parent and health care provider to consider switching prescription to an inhaler (metered dosed or dry powdered) if appropriate
Aerosol generating procedures such as oral suctioning; nasopharyngeal suctioning; tracheostomy tube care, change, and open suctioning; CPAP machine; cough assist machine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-sleeve fluid repellent gown, N95 mask, face shield or facial protection, gloves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highly recommended that family contact their health care provider regarding the benefits of on-campus education vs. high health and safety risks Identify a separate and private area with proper ventilation/air filtration Recommend using Closed suction systems
Urinary Catheterization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gown, gloves, mask, face shield or facial protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steps: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Clean and disinfect area Gather supplies Wash hands, put on PPE Perform procedure Discard used supplies Remove gloves, wash hands Put on clean gloves and help dress student Clean and disinfect area Remove gloves and wash hands

PPE Definitions/Recommendations:

Face shields:

- A face shield is a curved, clear plastic or Plexiglas panel attached to a headband that protects the eyes, nose and mouth of the wearer during patient-care procedures and activities that carry the risk of generating splashes of blood, body fluids, excretions, or secretions. A face shield should extend below the chin anteriorly, to the ears laterally, and there should be no gap between the forehead and the device frame.
- Face shields combined with a mask are recommended to protect staff from students who cannot control secretions, including sneezes, coughs, and forced expiration of breath or spitting. Use universal precautions.
- CDC does not recommend the use of face shields as a substitute for a cloth face covering. Face shields can be combined with a mask. A face shield with a mask is recommended when a teacher has a student who cannot wear a mask or when staff are unable to maintain social (physical) distancing.

Facial protection (eyes, nose, and mouth):

- Wear a surgical or procedure mask **and** eye protection (goggles) **OR** a mask and face shield to protect mucous membranes of the eyes, nose, and mouth during activities that are likely to generate splashes or sprays of blood, body fluids, secretions, and excretions.

Cloth Face Coverings:

- Cloth face coverings are masks made from material that are meant to cover your nose and mouth and to be secured under the chin and are not considered personal protective equipment (PPE). These are effective in reducing the spread of the virus.

Surgical Masks:

- Surgical masks were originally intended to be worn by health professionals and are considered personal protective equipment. These are effective in reducing the spread of the virus.

N95 mask or N95 respirator:

- A N95 mask, also known as a respirator, filters particles that meet a certain standard for air filtration, meaning that it filters at least 95% of airborne particles. These are recommended only for use by healthcare personnel who need protection from both airborne and fluid hazards (e.g., splashes, sprays). Healthcare personnel who need this protection must be fit tested. You can contact your occupational health department, local health department or local hospital to ask if they do fit testing. Another example would be Concentra who does provide fit testing for a fee in multiple locations throughout Michigan. [Find a Concentra Michigan Location](#)

Gowns:

- Wear to protect skin and prevent soiling of clothing during activities that are likely to generate splashes or sprays of blood, body fluids, secretions, or excretions. Remove visibly soiled gown as soon as possible and perform hand hygiene. Disposable gowns should cover the front and back of the staff's clothes.

Gloves:

- Wearing gloves is not a substitute to meticulous hand washing. Gloves should be worn when contact is possible with respiratory, blood, gastrointestinal fluids or other potentially infectious materials, mucous membranes, non-intact(broken) skin, or potentially contaminated intact skin (stool, urine or vomit). Change gloves between tasks and procedures on the same patient after contact with potentially infectious material. Remove after use, before touching non-contaminated items and surfaces, and before going to another student. Perform hand hygiene immediately after removal. Washing hands between students will prevent cross contamination. Avoid use of latex gloves due to possible staff or student allergy.

Training Resources: [Spectrum Health](#)

Resources:

California School Nurse Organization (CSNO). (2020, July). [COVID-19 Health Services Recovery Plan Resource Guide in Educational Settings.](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, August 7) [Considerations for wearing masks.](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, July 3). [Frequently asked questions: Children.](#)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, May 29). [Information for pediatric healthcare providers.](#)

National Association of School Nurses. (2020, July 20). [Guidance for healthcare personnel on the use of personal protective equipment \(PPE\) in schools during COVID-19.](#)

National Association of School Nurses. (2020, July). [Return to School Post COVID-19 Closure Considerations for Students with Disabilities and Special Healthcare Needs Silver Spring, MD.](#)

National Tracheostomy Safety Project. (2020, April 7). [Pediatric Tracheostomy and Tracheostomy Long-Term Ventilated Care during COVID Pandemic.](#)

World Health Organization. (2007, October). [Health-care facility recommendations for standard precautions.](#)