

# COVID-19 & SCHOOLS

Information for Rochester and Monroe County



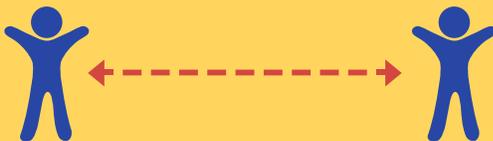
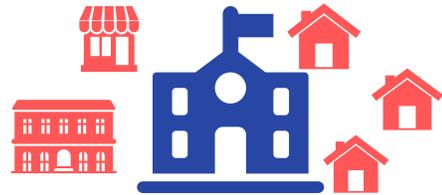
Monroe County school-aged children hospitalized since start of pandemic

## FEW CHILDREN

In Rochester and Monroe County, few children have been infected and infections in children have been generally mild.

## SAFE SCHOOLS

Almost all infections in children have happened OUTSIDE of schools.



## HEALTHY HABITS

Wearing masks, washing hands, keeping distance, and avoiding large groups keep our children healthy at school and home.

## READY RESPONSE

Our school and health systems are working together. We will continue to collect feedback, share resources, and promote best practices.



# Current Data Regarding COVID-19 in Rochester and Monroe County

*From the Department of Pediatrics and Child Health Primary Care Providers in Rochester*

## Few Children Infected in Monroe County

The rate of laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases (# of infections per population) for school-aged children is 233/100,000 in Monroe County. This means that for a hypothetical Monroe County school district of 5,000 students, on average there would be 11 students total who have had COVID-19 infection in the past 6 months. COVID-19 infections that have occurred among children in our region have generally been **mild**. To date, since the beginning of the pandemic, there have been **no deaths or hospitalizations in the intensive care unit** in Monroe County children and youth under of the age of 18. There have been a total of 9 children ages 5 to 17 hospitalized with COVID-19 in all of Monroe County since the start of the pandemic.

## Schools Opening Safely

National data on school reopening to date have demonstrated little evidence that COVID-19 is spreading within schools, and a remarkably **low rate of infection for students and teachers** overall. Only 0.21% of students have had a confirmed positive case of COVID-19. Contact tracing has shown that almost all of those infections happened **outside of school**. Rates of infection are much lower in schools than in their surrounding communities.

## We Are Ready to Respond

As pediatricians, family physicians and primary care providers, we want all children to be healthy, and we recognize the concerns COVID-19 has raised for our community. Our infection rates among children are low, and a very small number of children have had serious illness. Through our work together, we strive to **reduce risks** for children so that they can **learn, play and grow, gain mastery and independence, be cared for and care for others**. Whether consciously or not, we all accept risks each and every day in order to fulfil our responsibilities to others and for our community. The question is what degree of risk, and most importantly how do we reduce or mitigate it? For students who are remote-only learning, we also need to consider the risks for them gathering informally or in less structured settings than schools to meet their psychologic and social needs otherwise met in school.

For decreasing the spread of COVID-19 infection among children and between children and adults, we know that **wearing masks, social distancing, avoiding large group gatherings, washing/sanitizing our hands, and cleaning and disinfecting surfaces drastically reduce the spread** of COVID-19 when performed consistently. The Finger Lakes Reopening Schools Safely Task Force has brought together experts in public health, primary care, behavioral health and education to offer guidance to schools and healthcare providers, and it will continue to collect feedback and disseminate best practices during this period of re-opening.

We want all of our children to return to school safely for in-person learning. **We pledge our healthcare, social emotional support, and public health education resources to help make that a reality.**