Safety Analysis – School Visits

When visiting a school during the COVID-19 pandemic, the school may be in one of three categories:

1. School open, no known cases, focusing on prevention.
2. School open, known cases, responding to cases, and preventing new cases.
3. School closed, known cases, responding to cases, and improving prevention strategies.

Prerequisites for Visits

1. All team personnel require education and training on the situation at hand and necessary protocols; this requires initial familiarization/baseline training and also pre-operation/specific training for the site being visited.
2. All team personnel require up-to-date vaccinations.
3. All team personnel utilizing a respirator (N95/KN95 or equivalent require a pre-operation medical evaluation, training and Fit Testing (also included in the protocols below).
4. All team personnel utilizing PPE such as gowns, gloves and face shields must verify before the operation that their PPE fits properly and is of a high enough quality to serve its intention in exposure prevention by preventing droplet exposure to skin and/or clothes.

School Open, No Known Cases, Focusing on Prevention

If the school is open, there are students and faculty present and there have been cases/exposures, the following are recommended:

(a. Maintain 6' distancing whenever possible.
(b. Perform hand hygiene after touching any common surfaces using a sanitizer with at least 60% ethyl alcohol or at least 70% isopropyl alcohol.
(c. If no known cases, a face cover may be used if the 6’ distance is maintained; if the 6’ foot distance is breached, an N95/KN95 is encouraged. To be in the Respiratory Protection Program to use an N95 or other negative pressure, tight-fitting respirator, the following are required:
   (i. Assignment to the Respiratory Protection Program
   (ii. Medical evaluation
   (iii. Training
   (iv. Fit Test using the same model respirator to be used operationally
   (v. Readiness such as no facial hair affecting respirator seal and other factors
(d. In any situation, clothes worn in potentially contaminated environments should be doffed at home and washed prior to the team member sitting on furniture or otherwise settling in at home and clothes should be laundered (not left around where someone else will handle them later).
(e. All students, staff and HHD team members always require face coverings.
(f. Routine, systematic disinfection of touch points and contacted areas is recommended using an EPA approved disinfectant against COVID-19 or equivalent; this requires a respirator, gown, gloves, and face shield.
(g. When possible, limit capacities in indoor facilities to 25% of total capacity.
School Open, Known Cases, Responding to Cases, and Preventing New Cases

If the school is open but there are known infectious cases, the following are recommended:
(a. Maintain 6’ distancing whenever possible.
(b. Perform hand hygiene after touching any common surfaces.
(c. Because there are known cases, an N95/KN95 is recommended for respiratory protection; this requires the following prior to use:
   (i. Assignment to the Respiratory Protection Program
   (ii. Medical evaluation
   (iii. Training
   (iv. Fit Test using the same model respirator to be used operationally
   (v. Readiness such as no facial hair affecting respirator seal and other factors
(d. If we need to be within 6’ of any potentially infectious persons, more PPE such as a disposable gown or body suit and face shield to prevent droplet exposures on home-bound clothing will be beneficial or a change of clothes will be good prior to entering other facilities or going home is beneficial. This will require contamination control zones (‘hot’ zone where students and staff are, ‘cold’ zone outdoors and ‘warm’ zone to transition between the two and doff used PPE/respirators.
(e. In any situation, clothes worn in potentially contaminated environments should be doffed at home and washed prior to the team member sitting on furniture or otherwise settling in at home and clothes should be laundered (not left around where someone else will handle them later). Shoes can be wiped with a disinfectant if possible and, either way, left outside the home.
(g. All students and staff always require face coverings.
(h. Any affected areas (contacted by potentially infectious persons) require disinfection using an EPA approved disinfectant against COVID-19; this disinfection should take place 24 hours after the last occupation (if possible; if not possible, as long as possible should elapse before disinfection) to allow time for droplets to settle from the air before disinfecting surfaces. This requires a respirator, gloves, gown, and face shield.
(i. When possible, limit room/area capacities to 25% of the room’s total capacity.

School Closed, Known Cases, Responding to Cases and Improving Prevention Strategies

If the school is closed but there are known infectious cases, the following are recommended:
(a. Maintain 6’ distancing whenever possible.
(b. Perform hand hygiene after touching any common surfaces.
(c. If the facility has been occupied within 24 hours of the visit, because there are known cases, an N95/KN95 is recommended for respiratory protection; if more than 24
hours has elapsed since the last occupancy, droplets will have settled so a face cover will suffice unless personnel are performing disinfection. If less than 24 hours, a respirator (N95/KN95) is needed for potentially airborne droplets. Respirators requires the following prior to use:

To be in the Respiratory Protection Program to use an N95 or other negative pressure, tight-fitting respirator, the following are required:

(i. Assignment to the Respiratory Protection Program
(ii. Medical evaluation
(iii. Training
(iv. Fit Test using the same model respirator to be used operationally
(v. Readiness such as no facial hair affecting respirator seal and other factors

(d. If we need to be within 6’ of any potentially infectious persons, more PPE such as a disposable gown or body suit and face shield to prevent droplet exposures on home-bound clothing will be beneficial or a change of clothes will be good prior to entering other facilities or going home is beneficial.

(e. In any situation, clothes worn in potentially contaminated environments should be doffed at home and washed prior to the team member sitting on furniture or otherwise settling in at home and clothes should be laundered (not left around where someone else will handle them later). Shoes can be wiped with a disinfectant is possible and, either way, left outside the home.

(f. All students and staff always require face coverings.

(g. Any affected areas (contacted by potentially infectious persons) require disinfection using an EPA approved disinfectant against COVID-19; this disinfection should take place 24 hours after the last occupation (if possible; if not possible, as long as possible should elapse before disinfection) to allow time for droplets to settle from the air before disinfecting surfaces. This requires a respirator, gown, gloves, and face shield.

(h. When possible, limit capacities to 25% of the total room capacity.