

# TIPS FOR CREATING A PARENT CARE POD

*Are you interested in sharing supervision with other families during virtual learning?*

If a small group of families with students in the same school come together, they can share supervision during offsite learning days. This allows working parents to reduce the amount of time they need to provide direct supervision.

**IMPORTANT: In order to stay within legal guidelines for child care, the group size must include only two non-related children for more than three hours.**

## Tips

- The adults providing supervision are not in a teaching role. Each student is engaged in offsite learning via a device and materials provided by their school and teachers. The adult in charge is providing supervision and technical help to support virtual learning.
- Any host home needs Wi-Fi strong enough to support multiple devices simultaneously
- Make sure devices can be charged and students have enough work space to be successful.
- Consider breaking up the day with periods of physical learning or playing outside while following the school's schedule, and not when students are expected to be in attendance at virtual classes
- If you rotate to different homes, determine health and sanitation ground rules ahead of time.

*For more information regarding Parent Care Pods and health and sanitation recommendations, please visit [coronavirus.health.ny.gov](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov) and [nysed.gov/postsecondary-services/covid-19-resources-families-and-communities](https://nysed.gov/postsecondary-services/covid-19-resources-families-and-communities)*

## Health & Sanitation Tips

### TEMP CHECKS AND COVID SCREENING

Parents in your pod should screen their children for Covid symptoms prior to sending them to your home. Consider using an online Google form to document that screenings were done

### EXPOSURE RISK

All students/adult supervisors should self-quarantine after exposure or if they are exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19

### HAND-WASHING

Make it an essential habit. Everyone in a Pod should wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water:

- ⇒ When first entering the Pod location
- ⇒ Before and after eating
- ⇒ After using the bathroom

### SHOES

Remove shoes before entering Pod location to reduce cross-contamination between homes (and when returning home)

### GELS AND PPE

Ask each family/student to provide a bottle of hand sanitizer/gel, disinfecting wipes and a package of disposable masks for use throughout the day.

### MOVEMENT

Stay in designated areas of the Pod

### FOOD AND DRINK

Don't share food and drinks. Each Pod member should bring their own snack(s)

# Health & Safety Considerations

When caring for other people's children in your home, there are certain health and safety considerations you should keep in mind.

The following is a list of questions to consider.

- Do you have a copy of everyone's emergency contact information in a single, accessible place?
- Do you have an exit plan and outdoor meeting place in case of a fire or other emergency requiring evacuation from the home?
- How will you handle an emergency where a child needs immediate medical attention?
- Do you have fire extinguishers and operating smoke detectors/carbon monoxide detectors in your home?
- Do you have a well-stocked first aid kit in your home? **By law, only parents and immediate relatives may administer medication to children.**
- How will you handle a request from another parent to control allergens?
- Do you have barriers in place to keep children from unsafe areas indoors & outside? (pools, coal stoves, drainage ditches, fireplaces, etc...)

