



Report as of February 14, 2022

- Statewide indoor business mask or vaccine requirement to be lifted starting February 10, remains optional for businesses, local governments, counties. Masks will still be required in hospitals, nursing homes, shelters, transportation and other related entities. Requirements related to masks in schools continue and will be reevaluated in early March, after mid-winter break, based on public health data.
- February is National Children's Dental Health Month and February is also American Heart Health Awareness month.
- February is also Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. Nationwide, youth ages 12 to 19 experience the highest rates of rape and sexual assault. Studies show that approximately 10% of adolescents report being the victim of physical violence at the hands of an intimate partner during the previous year. Girls are particularly vulnerable to experiencing violence in their relationships and are more likely to suffer long-term behavioral and health consequences, including suicide attempts, eating disorders, and drug use.

Adolescents in abusive relationships often carry these unhealthy patterns of violence into future relationships. Indeed, children who are victimized or witness violence frequently bring this experience with them to the playground, the classroom, later into teen relationships and, ultimately, they can end up the victims and perpetrators of adult intimate partner violence. <https://youth.gov/feature-article/teen-dating-violence-awareness-and-prevention-month>

There is a NYS PTA Resolution that supports prevention education:

DOMESTIC AND/OR INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE/SEXUAL HARASSMENT – 2015 (U-'08, R'01, R-'94)

1. Support implementation of family life curricula in every school.
2. Support inclusion of Domestic and/or Intimate Partner Violence/Sexual Harassment education as part of a comprehensive health education curriculum including family life education.
3. Urge local PTA units to bring these issues to the attention of PTA members and youth in their communities, and encourage parent participation in prevention and awareness of sexual harassment, and domestic and/or intimate partner violence.
4. Focus on prevention of domestic and/or intimate partner violence through education and publications.
5. Urge school districts to adopt a formal policy on dating violence.

NYS Senate Bill S757 relates to the creation of a school based teen dating violence protection program. It is currently sitting in the Education Committee. The link for the bill can be found here. <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/S757> and here <https://legislation.nysenate.gov/pdf/bills/2021/S757>