

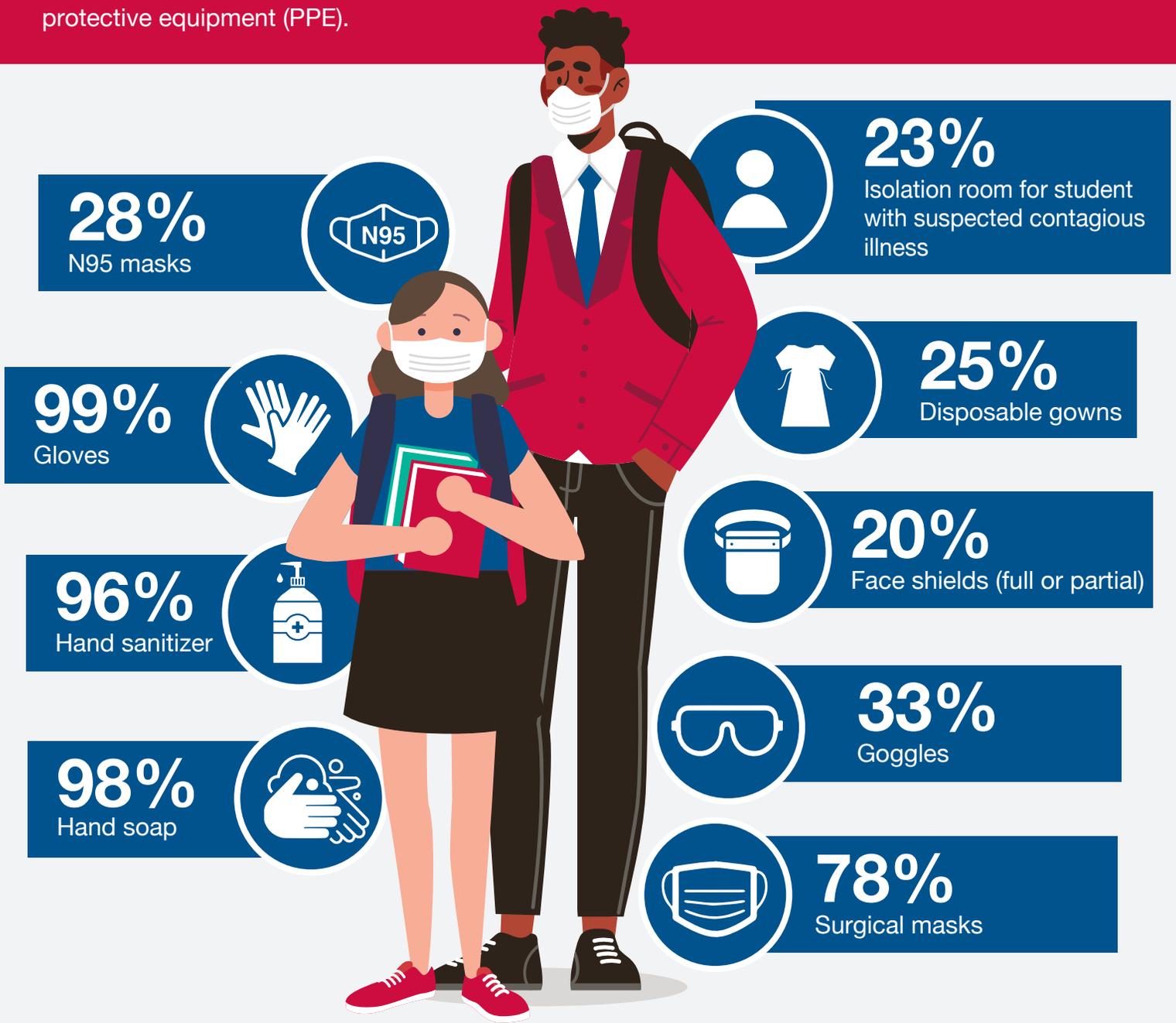
ARE SCHOOLS PREPARED FOR ANOTHER COVID OUTBREAK?



National Association of School Nurses

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided recommendations about infection control measures in the schools related to COVID-19. The National Association of School Nurses recently surveyed school nurses to learn what type of infection control supplies and equipment they had in their schools BEFORE schools were closed due to COVID-19.

These numbers indicate if the school nurse had the equipment, not if there was adequate supply in accordance with CDC guidance for frontline health care workers. School nurses indicated they were not confident that their schools are prepared for re-opening or will have necessary personal protective equipment (PPE).



Respondents who indicated they did not have needed infection control supplies were asked why.

The most common response, given by almost **40%** of the respondents, was that the **supplies did not seem necessary** at school; **27%** indicated **insufficient budget** to purchase the supplies. Nearly a quarter of the nurses (**24%**) also cited that the **current health office layout did not allow** for the recommended isolation precautions.

School nurses are frontline health care workers, but because that healthcare work takes place in a school setting, rather than in a hospital, or other medical setting, guidance regarding necessary PPE is often unclear. As such, they often face resistance when requesting supplies because of a lack of understanding that the supplies were needed, and lack of budget.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (June 2020). Interim infection prevention and control recommendations for patients with suspected or confirmed Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in healthcare settings.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (June 6, 2020) Using personal protective equipment (PPE)