

Use of Face Coverings in Schools

A face covering means a medical mask or a non-medical mask, or other face coverings such as a bandana, scarf, or cloth mask that has been purchased or made, that covers the mouth, nose and chin ensuring a barrier that limits the transmission of infectious respiratory droplets. Face coverings should be made of at least 2 layers of tightly woven cotton.

Face coverings are recommended as a protective barrier to help prevent droplets from landing on surfaces or on other people when the person wearing the mask coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice.

Wearing a face covering is not a substitute for hand washing, physical distancing and staying home when sick.

Note: teachers and school staff can help students put on and adjust face coverings as needed, if they clean their hands before and after doing so.



How to properly wear a face covering



Putting on your face covering

1. Before putting on your face covering, clean your hands using warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds, or use hand sanitizer that contains 60 to 90 per cent alcohol.
2. Put on the face covering touching only the straps.
3. Ensure it fits snugly around your nose, mouth, and chin, without space at the sides.
4. Avoid touching your face covering while wearing it to avoid contaminating your hands. If you do touch your face covering, clean your hands.
5. When a face covering becomes damp, soiled, or crumpled, replace it with a clean face covering.

Removing your face covering

1. Before removing the face covering, wash your hands with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds, or use a hand sanitizer that contains 60 to 90 per cent alcohol.
2. Untie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops, touching only the ties or ear loops.
3. Avoid touching the front of the face covering when removing it. Be careful to not touch your eyes, nose or mouth when removing your face covering.
4. Fold the outside corners of the face covering together.
5. If reusable, store it in a clean place (for example, a closed paper bag or container with a lid) and wash after every day of use, or if visibly soiled or damp.
6. A non-reusable face covering should be discarded in a plastic lined trash can when it is damp, soiled or crumpled.
7. Clean hands immediately after removing your face covering.



How to care for your face covering at school

Clearly identify face coverings with names or initials, to avoid confusion or accidentally using another person's face covering.

- ◆ It can be helpful to label face coverings to indicate top and bottom, and, front and back.
- ◆ Do not share face coverings, or touch face coverings belonging to someone else.
- ◆ Face coverings should be stored in a clean place (for example, individually labeled container or closed paper bag).

How to clean your face covering

Face coverings should not be worn if they are wet, damp, or soiled.

Cloth face coverings should be washed at the end of the day or before being used again.

- ◆ put it directly into the washing machine or a bag that can be emptied into the washing machine
- ◆ wash with other items using a hot cycle with laundry detergent (no special soaps are needed), and dry thoroughly
- ◆ wash your hands after putting the face covering into the laundry
- ◆ all face coverings that cannot be cleaned should be thrown out and replaced as soon as they get damp, soiled, or crumpled.

Families should consider packing an extra face covering for children as a back-up.

