

Guidance on Face Coverings



To be effective, masks should:

- Have multiple layers of fabric
- Cover the nose, mouth and chin
- Fit snugly but comfortably, against the sides of the face
- Be secured with ear loops or ties
- Allow for unrestricted breathing
- Be washed and dried carefully after each use

Wearing a mask at school

- Students in Grades 1-12 are required to wear a non-medical or cloth mask indoors in school, including in hallways and during classes, and on school buses.
- WDGPB strongly recommends that school boards and private schools implement mandatory masking for students in kindergarten (JK and SK) as well as mandatory masking outdoors for students in kindergarten to grade 3. Additional grades/classes may be required to wear masks outdoors where physical distancing cannot be maintained or as indicated by school or board policy.
- Students must be able to safely remove a mask in an emergency. Students may be exempt from wearing a mask based on breathing, cognitive, behavioural or developmental needs.

Prepare your child for wearing a mask at school

- Explain to your child why it is important to wear a mask at school and how it protects people from getting sick.
- Talk to your child about why some others may not be able to also wear masks and the importance of kindness.
- As a family, model wearing masks in the community or where physical distancing is hard to do.
- Help your child practice removing their mask, placing it in a resealable container or paper bag, then have a snack or drink and putting it back on for the next activity.
- Allow your child to choose fun colours, prints or textures for their mask.





Teach your child:

- How to properly put on and take off their mask.
- To wash or sanitize their hands before they put on and take off their mask and again after they take it off.
- Not to touch their mask while wearing it, and if they do, they should wash or sanitize their hands before and after.
- That cloth masks should not be worn if they are wet. A wet cloth mask can make it hard to breathe.
- That they should never share or swap masks with anyone.

Mask tips for school

- Your child will need to wear a clean mask each day.
- If your child will be wearing a cloth mask, it is a good idea to purchase (or make) at least five or be prepared to wash and dry each day.
- Masks should be clearly labelled with your child's name.
- Cloth masks should be washed or replaced after every day of use or if visibly soiled.
- Pack extra masks in your child's backpack in case a back-up is needed during the school day.

When can my child take off their mask at school?

- Outdoor times like recess can be used as opportunities to provide students with breaks from wearing masks as long as physical distancing can be maintained.
- Masks can be removed when students are eating or drinking (ensure physical distancing is maintained during this activity).

What should my child do with their mask when they take it off?

When your child is not wearing their mask, they should put it in a resealable container or paper bag labelled with their name. This will keep the mask from being contaminated when it is not being worn and keep the mask from contaminating surfaces or objects.

References

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