

Answers to Common Questions About Masks

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- It is mandatory that all students, staff, and anyone else entering the building wear a face mask.
 - COVID-19 [spreads](#) mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice (e.g., while shouting, chanting, or singing). These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- Each student and staff member will be provided a cloth mask (washable/reusable)
 - It is the expectation that at the end of the day each student and staff member will take the cloth face masks home for proper laundering. Each person must launder or rotate masks in order to have a clean mask each day. For this reason, it may be beneficial for individuals to purchase additional masks for convenience.
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-wash-cloth-face-coverings.html>
- Forgotten or soiled masks:
 - The RN offices and administrative assistants have an extra supply of surgical facemasks in both child and adult sizes for as needed use.
 - Limited quantities of extra masks, but the facemask should be removed and discarded if soiled, damaged, or hard to breathe through.
- How to properly wash:
 - You can include your face covering with your regular laundry.
 - Use regular laundry detergent and the warmest appropriate water setting for the cloth used to make the face covering.
 - Dry on the highest appropriate heat setting for the material or air dry.
- Removal/storage of masks (lunch, medication administration, etc.)
 - Untie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops
 - Handle only by the ear loops or ties
 - Fold outside corners together.
 - If it will be off for lunch, after folding outside corners, place into a Ziplock bag (leave unzipped). Wash hands or use hand sanitizer.
- N95 Masks
 - N95 masks require fit testing to ensure efficacy. This must be done by a trained professional with access to the testing kit.
 - Not recommended by CDC for use in the educational setting.
 - If you are immunocompromised, please reach out to your healthcare provider for guidance.



- Additionally, N95 masks are a critical PPE item and should be reserved for healthcare professionals.
 - Use cloth or surgical masks only. Valved masks, gaiters, and bandanas should not be used on campus.
 - Per CDC guidance, masks with valves or vents allow exhaled air to be expelled out through holes in the material. This can allow exhaled respiratory droplets to reach others and potentially spread the COVID-19 virus.
 - In addition, emerging data has shown that bandanas and gaiters may also act similarly to masks with valves.
 - Situations when masks are not appropriate:
 - Cloth face coverings should not be placed on:
 - Children younger than 2 years old.
 - Anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious.
 - Anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the cloth face covering without assistance.
 - Noncompliance and Opposition
 - Zero tolerance for misuse or refusal to wear masks in MS/US.
 - Appropriate and consistent use of cloth face coverings may be challenging for some students, teachers, and staff, including:
 - LS mask noncompliance
 - Given the developmental level of LS students, instances of noncompliance can be expected.
 - There are ways to successfully encourage younger students to learn to wear masks for longer periods of time.
 - Model it! Make it familiar by wearing a mask too.
 - Draw masks onto pictures of their favorite characters: superheroes, cartoon characters, athletes, toys, etc.
 - Play! Put a mask on their favorite stuffed animal.
 - Decorate a special paper bag for storage of mask for meal times.
 - Parents are expected to practice wearing a face covering at home. Example, require your child to wear a mask during screen-time!



It is important for families to get their child comfortable with wearing a mask for longer periods of time prior to the start of school.

- CDC does not recommend use of face shields for normal everyday activities or as a substitute for cloth face coverings because of a lack of evidence of their effectiveness for source control. If you desire to wear a face shield, you must also wear a mask.
- Recommendation is to wear glasses instead of contact lenses, if appropriate. Glasses offer eye protection and decrease of hand/eye contact. If you do not wear glasses, there are many options for non prescription blue light filtering glasses. Win-win!