



## **Face masks/coverings**

As the primary route of transmission for COVID-19 is respiratory, masks/face coverings are among the most critical components of risk reduction. Face coverings help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people or surfaces when the person wearing the face covering coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice.

Adults, including educators and staff, are required to wear a mask/face covering. All students are required to wear a mask/face covering that covers their nose and mouth. Masks/face coverings must be worn by all students on the bus. Face shields may be an alternative for those students with documented medical or behavioral challenges who are unable to wear masks/face coverings (Updated 8/12/20). The same applies to staff with medical or other health reasons for being unable to wear face coverings. Face shields worn in place of a face covering must extend below the chin and back to the ears.

Face coverings should cover your nose and mouth, and fit snugly against the sides of your face. Cloth face coverings should have multiple layers of cloth. For additional information about face coverings, review U.S. CDC guidance on how to [make cloth face coverings](#), [wear and remove masks/face coverings](#), and [wash cloth face coverings](#).

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  - Face shields worn in place of a face covering must extend below the chin and back to the ears.
- Masks/face coverings **may be removed during mealtime and outdoor activities where students and staff can maintain at least six feet of physical distancing** from others and have ready access to put them back on as needed when activity stops

- There may be short periods of time throughout the day that staff and students may remove their masks to eat and/or stay hydrated.
- Reusable masks/face coverings should be washed by families daily.
- Masks/face coverings should be replaced when soiled or wet. If the mask/face covering becomes soiled, remove and safely discard disposable masks, or store reusable face coverings in a sealed container or plastic bag for laundering. Perform hand hygiene after changing a soiled mask/face covering.
- Masks/face coverings—or face shields for those who need them as described above—are required to be worn by everyone on the bus during school bus transportation.
- RSU 10 will provide information on proper use, removal, and washing of face coverings to staff, students, and parents/guardians.
- The use of masks with exhalation valves is highly discouraged as the valve can allow a concentrated stream of exhaled air containing droplets, putting others nearby at transmission risk.

Source: [PK-12 and Adult Education Public Health Guidance](#)