

APPENDIX A: USE OF COMMUNITY MASK

November 29, 2020

Public Health has identified the use of community masks as an effective tool to help control the transmission of COVID-19. The following directives may be adjusted as new evidence becomes available.

Directives

- All students and school personnel are expected to bring two clean community masks to school with them every day.
- A community mask should be at least two layers of tightly woven fabric, that covers the nose, mouth and sides of the face.
- Community mask requirements will not apply to students or school personnel who have been advised by a medical professional to not wear one due to an underlying medical condition, such as asthma, etc. Appropriate documentation will be required and submitted to the principal.
- In some instances, face shields may also be worn as an additional measure. Please note, face shields are not the same as a community mask and do not offer the same protection. As such, if a shield is worn, a community mask must also be worn. School personnel will be provided with face shields, and it is a personal choice to wear one.
- Students or school personnel who become symptomatic throughout the school day will be required to wear a community mask until they leave the school building. Measures are in place to guide schools regarding individuals who become ill during the school day. Please refer to Appendix K: Outbreak Management for further guidance.
- The use of a community mask does not replace the requirement for physical distancing. It is a measure used in conjunction with other practices to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 spread.

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Students

The following table describes the requirements for the use of community masks and physical distancing for students. Parents, teachers and school personnel should model safe and healthy behaviors and teach and encourage them in students. If a student refuses to follow these requirements, disciplinary action may be taken.

Use of Community Masks and Physical Distancing for Students			
K-5	In class grouping	Community masks	Not required
		Physical distancing	Not required*
	In common areas when class grouping is not protected	Community masks	Encouraged
		Physical distancing	Two metres
6-8	In class grouping	Community masks	Not required
		Physical distancing	Not required*
	In common areas	Community masks	Required
		Physical distancing	Two metres
9-12	In the classroom	Community masks	If unable to physically distance one metre, community mask is required
		Physical distancing	One metre
	In common areas	Community masks	Required
		Physical distancing	Two metres

*Students will be taught age-appropriate ways to reduce physical contact and promote hygiene etiquette.

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School Personnel

The following table describes the requirements for the use of community masks and physical distancing for school personnel.

Use of Community Masks and Physical Distancing for School Personnel					
Grades	Location	Measure	Class Grouping Teacher	High School and All Level Specialty and Teachers (Art, Phys. Ed., etc.)	Itinerant Teachers, Supply Teachers, Visiting Professionals
K–8	In class grouping	Community masks	Not required	If unable to physically distance one metre, community mask is required	If unable to physically distance two metres, community mask is required
		Physical distancing	Not required	One metre	Two metres
	In common areas	Community masks	Required	Required	Required
		Physical distancing	Two metres	Two metres	Two metres
9–12	In the classroom	Community masks	N/A	If unable to physically distance one metre, community mask is required	If unable to physically distance two metres, community mask is required
		Physical distancing	N/A	One metre	Two metres
	In common areas	Community masks	N/A	Required	Required
		Physical distancing	N/A	Two metres	Two metres

On the School Bus

- While masks are encouraged, younger students (K–5) sitting with a member of the same household or alone, will not be required to wear masks. Older students (Grades 6–12) will wear masks when getting on and off the bus and if they are sitting with another student who is not from the same household.
- If a student in Grades 6–12 does not have a mask upon boarding the bus, one will be provided temporarily. Parents are to provide clean masks for student use. Incidents of non-compliance may be reported to the school principal for follow up.

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Members of the Public Visiting School

Any member of the community, including parents, volunteers, repair workers, public health nurses, etc., who enter the school during operational hours will be required to keep a physical distance of two metres and wear a community mask for their pre-approved appointment or time, in addition to all other health and safety measures. These practices should be explained prior to the visit and signage should be posted as well.