

PPE & How to Use

COVID-19 mainly spreads 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). This is why cloth face coverings are most likely to reduce the spread of COVID-19 when they are widely used by people in public settings.

How to properly wear a face covering:

- Wash your hands before putting on your face covering
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily
- Don't put the face covering around your neck or up on your forehead
- Don't touch the face covering, and, if you do, wash your hands or use hand sanitizer to disinfect

PPE IN SCHOOLS

- Nurses or other staff attending to ill individuals who may have COVID should wear an N-95 mask, face shield, gown and gloves. Schools will have to provide this personal protective equipment.
 - N-95 masks may be reused unless visibly soiled and should be placed in a paper bag between uses.
 - Face shields may be cleaned with an approved disinfecting wipe. If caring for multiple sick individuals at the same time, the nurse or designated individual may keep his or her mask and face shield in place and change gowns (if there is sufficient supply) and gloves between patients.
 - Masking and physical distancing are required to keep children healthy and in school.
 - Masks should be worn every day as much as possible by students and staff, with the exception of individuals who have a medical exemption for masking for behavioral or medical reasons. Physical distancing of children who cannot wear masks is very important to prevent exposure. Parents should notify staff and administration of these students in advance of the start of school.
 - Plexiglas barriers may be used to reduce exposure to aerosols in certain situations where it is not possible to maintain 6 feet of separation. These can be used in the cafeteria to separate workers from each other and students, or in restrooms between sinks to provide separation. Using Plexiglas around student desks might help reduce the spread of infection; however, in a classroom, aerosols and droplets will come from the sides as well as the front and back of the child so protection will be incomplete.
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