



Student Mask Guidance for 2022-2023 School Year
(Updated August 2022)

When worn properly, wearing a mask helps reduce the spread of COVID-19 by reducing droplet transmission between people. Face masks do not replace the need to maintain social distancing and frequent hand washing as mitigation strategies against COVID-19.

When required by the School District of Philadelphia, based upon guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and PDPH, all School District of Philadelphia students must wear a face mask that covers the mouth and nose at all times while in an indoor space.

APPROVED FACE MASKS

A mask is defined as a covering of the nose *and* mouth that is secured with straps that loop over the ears or tie around the back of the head.

Cloth masks alone are no longer considered to be effective protection against the spread of coronavirus, as a result, students are recommended to wear in the order of preference:

- 1) a 3 ply disposable surgical mask supplied by the District, with the addition of a cloth mask OR
- 2) a 3 ply disposable surgical mask OR
- 3) a well fitting KN95 or N95 mask

Ultimately, students should wear the most effective mask that they can keep in place over their nose and mouth consistently. Neither masks containing valves nor gaiters are approved face masks in District buildings

Individuals who are communicating, or seeking to communicate with, someone who is hearing impaired, or who has another disability, where the ability for the student to see the mouth is essential to communication, may wear a face shield instead of a mask during the time they are communicating with the person. The student should maintain a mask during this interaction when feasible.

Please follow the guidance below for applying, removing, and cleaning the types of masks approved for wear by District students. Hand hygiene should be performed before and after applying and removing a mask.



GENERAL GUIDANCE

- Students may wear personal, clean, well-maintained masks appropriate for the school environment that meet one of the approved face masks types identified in the chart below.
- When required by SDP, students must wear a face mask at all times in hallways, classrooms, indoor public spaces, and other common indoor areas across District spaces.
- Students should remain mindful not to unnecessarily touch masks except for removal for meals and breaks.
- Masks should not be worn during water play activities that could get masks wet whether indoors or outdoors. Because masks should not be worn at these times, students should maintain appropriate physical distance.
- Students are not required to wear face masks while participating in outdoor activities if a minimum of three feet of social distancing is maintained.
- Students may remove face masks indoors when eating or drinking if seated three feet away from others.
- When masks are removed, they must be placed below the chin, in a pocket, or on the lap. Masks should not be placed on tabletops or other communal surfaces.

Type and Intended Use of Masks				
Approved Masks	Disposable Surgical Mask	Face Shields	KN95, N95, (non-vented)	Cloth Mask (May be used in conjunction with a surgical mask)
		 (Use in place of masks for the conditions listed below)		
Mask Application (i.e. putting on your mask)	Hook loops snugly around ears. Ensure that mask covers nose and mouth at all times and is secured under the chin.	Bending forward, hold face shield with both hands, expand the elastic with thumbs and place the elastic behind head, so that the foam	Hook loops snugly around ears or behind head. Ensure that mask covers nose and mouth at all times and is secured under the chin.	Secure ties to head or hook loops snugly around ears. Ensure that mask covers nose and mouth at all times and is secured under the chin.



		rests on forehead. Ensure the shield covers the front and sides of the face and no areas are left uncovered.		
Mask Removal	Unhook from ears and pull away from face without touching the inside of the mask. Fold so the inner part of the mask faces inward. Dispose immediately into trash can.	Remove and pull up and away from face without touching the front of the mask. Check for cracks in the mask and discard if cracked or damaged.	Unhook from ears and pull away from face without touching the inside of the mask.	Unhook from ears and pull away from face without touching the inside of the mask.
Mask Cleaning	Dispose immediately into trash can.	Carefully wipe the inside, followed by the outside of the face shield with a disinfectant wipe.	Dispose of into trashcan when soiled.	Launder daily

Accommodations for Students Who Are Unable to Wear a Mask Due to Medical Conditions or Other Reasons

Any student who cannot wear a mask or face shield due to 1) a medical condition, 2) mental health condition, 3) disability, or 4) inability to remove a mask without assistance are not required to wear face coverings.

Students with the following conditions are eligible to use a face shield in place of a mask. This list is not exhaustive. Additional requests will be considered on an individual basis.

- Tracheostomies
- Neuromuscular and other conditions that limit the ability to self-remove a mask
- Autism
- Hearing Impairment
- Chronological young age
- Developmental young age
- Cognitive impairment

For any student with a disability that cannot wear a mask, the school IEP/504 teams should be contacted to assist with accommodations around mitigation efforts.



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA
