

# MASK GUIDELINES



All scholars in Pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, faculty, staff, and visitors are required to wear a mask or face covering when at school or a school function, in any other District building or facility, or while in other areas of a school campus, including while traveling in hallways, while waiting outside buildings before and after school, while waiting at bus stops and when riding in District provided transportation. In accordance with the guidance from the CDC, face coverings must completely cover a person's nose and mouth.

Wearing a mask or face covering does not replace the need to continue frequent hand washing, avoiding touching the face, and practicing social distancing, which are our best tools to help prevent the spread of illness. Masks with valves, neck gaiters and bandanas are not permitted.

## Removal of Masks

| For Scholars   | For Staff/Faculty  |
|--|--|
| <p>Students may remove masks and face coverings when eating or drinking during assigned breakfast/lunch/snack periods or in extreme situations where the teacher, administrator or nurse determines that a mask break is necessary. Mask breaks will only be considered when the student is socially distanced at least six (6) feet from all others.</p> <p>Masks should NOT be worn by children under the age of 2 or anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance. If your scholar falls into this category, please contact the building principal prior to sending them to school.</p> | <p>Staff members and employees may remove masks or face coverings only if working alone in an individual office. Masks and face coverings must cover the nose and mouth of the employee. Masks with valves, neck gaiters and bandanas are not permitted.</p> |

## Wear your Mask (face covering) correctly:

- ✓ Wash your hands before putting on mask
- ✓ Put the mask over your nose and mouth; and secure it under your chin
- ✓ Try to fit it snugly against the sides of face
- ✓ Make sure you can breathe easily
- ✓ CDC does not recommend use of masks or cloth masks for source control if they have an exhalation valve or vent

## Clean masks (face covering):

Masks should be appropriately cleaned regularly. Masks can be included in your regular laundry. Use regular laundry detergent and the warmest appropriate water setting for the cloth used to make the mask. Masks can also be washed by hand. More information about cleaning masks can be found at [cdc.org/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus). Anyone entering a district building, who does not have a facemask, will be provided one.

## Discarding Masks (face covering):

Discard and replace any cloth face coverings that: no longer cover the nose and mouth, have stretched out or damaged ties or straps, cannot stay on the face, or have holes or tears in the fabric.

## Acceptable masks (face covering):

Acceptable face coverings for COVID-19 include, but are not limited to cloth-based face coverings (homemade sewn, quick cut, 2+ plie) and surgical masks that cover both the mouth and nose.

Make cloth face coverings from household items or common materials. Use multiple layers of a fabric that does not damage or lose shape when laundered or machine dried.

Masks with valves, neck gaiters and bandanas are not permitted.

There is currently not enough evidence to support the effectiveness of face shields for source control. Therefore, CDC does not currently recommend use of face shields as a substitute for masks. Face shields may be worn only in addition to a face mask.

## Additional infection control strategies:

All students, staff members, employees and visitors must be aware of and social distance from others (at least six feet from any other person). All persons in school, in District buildings and facilities, including outside areas, must cover their mouth and nose when they cough or sneeze and then properly wash their hands or hand sanitizer after doing so.

For additional information, please reference NECSD Board of Education Policy 8132: HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES DURING EPIDEMICS AND PANDEMICS and visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)