

# COVID-19

## Mask Care Information for Students and Families

### Background

- Students in Grades 1 to 12 are required to wear a non-medical or cloth face mask in schools, including in hallways and during classes, on school bus transportation, and outdoors during recess where a 2 metre distance cannot be maintained.
- The [Public Health Agency of Canada](#) does not recommend using a neck gaiter or neck warmer as a face covering because they are not well secured to the head or ears, and are likely to move or slip out of place. They are also difficult to remove without contaminating oneself.
- Students in Kindergarten are encouraged, but not required, to wear a mask in indoor spaces.

### Storing Masks

Masks can be removed to eat or drink. Review the steps below with your child for how to store masks when they are not being worn:

- Cloth masks can be re-used throughout the day, but should be changed if they become damp, dirty or damaged. Consider sending extra masks to school with your child.
- To reuse a cloth mask:
  - Clean hands right before and after putting it on and before and after taking it off - that's 4 times.
  - Put on and take off the mask using the ties or ear loops.
  - Fold the mask in half with the outer surface facing inwards (so that the contaminated outer surface does not touch anything during storage).
  - Place it in a clean, sealable container or bag until ready to use it again. Label bags and containers with the student's name to prevent accidental misuse.
  - Masks should not be stored in pockets or other areas (e.g. hanging under chin or from lanyards) where they can become damaged or pick up germs.

Paper disposable masks should not be reused. They should be placed in a garbage can and replaced with a new mask.

### Cleaning Reusable Masks

- Put masks directly into the washing machine and wash with other items using a hot cycle with laundry detergent (no special soaps are needed), and dry thoroughly. Masks can also be handwashed in hot soapy water; rinsed well and hung to dry.
- Wash your hands each time before and after handling a mask.
- Store clean masks in a clean bag or container.

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