



# Fact Sheet

## COVID-19 Related Personal Protective Equipment



Revised August 17, 2021

**The health, safety and well-being of students and staff is a top priority as schools are reopened.** COVID-19 related Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) play a significant role in maximizing safety, as part of a layered approach to reducing risk. Staff and students will be required to adhere to health and safety protocols to ensure their own safety and the safety of others. In school settings, the expectation is that staff and students do not come into the school if they are unwell.

PPE for staff includes the following:

- Procedural/medical grade masks (not N95 masks)
- Eye protection (goggles or a face shield)
- Disposable gloves (for use in situations where direct contact is required to support students in eating, toileting, etc.)
- Medical gowns and booties (for use in situation where direct contact is required to support students in eating, toileting, etc.)

Staff will be trained in the use and limitations of PPE prior to the beginning of the school year. All PPE must be worn properly at all times. Masks must cover both the nose and mouth.

In addition to PPE, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette will be required (refer to Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette Fact Sheet).

### Will PPE Be Provided?

- ✓ PPE will be provided to all staff.
- ✓ PPE will not be provided for students unless the student is unable to obtain a mask or has not brought one to school. Students are encouraged to practice wearing masks and to learn what type of mask is most comfortable for them.

### Where and When is PPE Required?

- ✓ Students in Grades 1 to 12 will be required to wear non-medical or cloth masks indoors in school, including in hallways and during classes.
- ✓ Students in Kindergarten will be strongly encouraged, but not required, to wear mask/face coverings in indoor spaces.
- ✓ Students in split grades (Kindergarten students in an SK/1 class) will be required to wear a mask/face covering.

✓ All staff are required to wear procedural/medical grade masks (provided) inside the school. Eye protection (i.e. face shields and/or safety goggles/approved safety glasses) will be provided and must be worn for staff working in close contact with students who are not wearing masks (e.g. students in Kindergarten). Eye protection is not required for staff working with students who are wearing masks.





# Fact Sheet

- ✓ **If physical distancing of 2 metres can be maintained indoors while students are at their desks, students may take a mask break. This break will last only while the student is seated at their desks, 2 metres apart from others. Students must wear their masks if they leave their desk.**
- ✓ Staff who are regularly in close contact with students will be provided with all appropriate personal protective equipment. This equipment is especially important where there is the potential for contact with bodily fluids.
- ✓ Staff who are required to wear PPE for protection against workplace hazards besides COVID-19 must continue to use that PPE as required. This includes gloves for new cleaning and disinfecting products that workers use because of COVID-19 and may include N95 masks.
- ✓ Visitors (essential personnel) are required to wear a mask.
- ✓ In the case where a student or staff becomes symptomatic at school/in the workplace, they will be required to quarantine in a designated space and use PPE (mask, gown and hand sanitizer) until they can safely leave the school/building.

## **Non-Medical Masks/Face Coverings:**

- ✓ May not be tolerated by everyone based on underlying health issues. Consideration should be given to mitigating any possible physical or psychological injuries that may inadvertently be caused by wearing a face covering (e.g. interfering with the ability to see or speak clearly).
- ✓ Appropriate medical documentation will be required by students (Grades 1-12) and staff who have health issues that prevent them from wearing a mask while at school, and for K-12 students who are riding the bus.
- ✓ Should be changed if visibly soiled, damp or damaged.
- ✓ If worn or disposed of incorrectly, could lead to increased risk of infection.
- ✓ Staff are responsible for the safe use and cleanliness of their own mask, as well as the proper disposal of the mask.
- ✓ Parents are responsible for the cleanliness of their child's cloth mask. Parents are strongly encouraged to teach their children how to properly care for and wear their mask.
- ✓ Face shields will be made available to staff; however, they must be worn in combination with medical masks.

## **Additional Support:**

Public Health Ontario has the following videos available on their YouTube page:

[Handwashing](#)

[Hand Rub](#)

[Putting on gloves](#)

[Removing gloves](#)

[Putting on full PPE](#)

[Putting on mask and eye protection](#)

*This Fact Sheet has been designed to provide information for school communities considering the changes required by COVID-19.*

*For any questions, concerns, or accommodations, please contact your child's school principal. \*\*Adapted from the Ministry of Education*

*"COVID-19 Health, Safety and Operational Guidance (2021-2022 Version 2)"*