

Face Masks/Coverings- What works & what doesn't

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Face masks/coverings are required— just one part of the plan to protect staff and students. As always, face masks/coverings are not the only way to protect yourself and others, which is why we also encourage physical distancing, frequent hand washing, barriers when needed, and staying home when sick.

All staff and students are required to wear a face mask or cover whenever they are in our school building, unless a previously discussed exemption has been arranged. Recent research highlights that some masks are better than others. With that research in mind, we will require disposable surgical or 2-3 layer reusable cloth masks.

[Return to School: Wearing Cloth Face Covering](#)

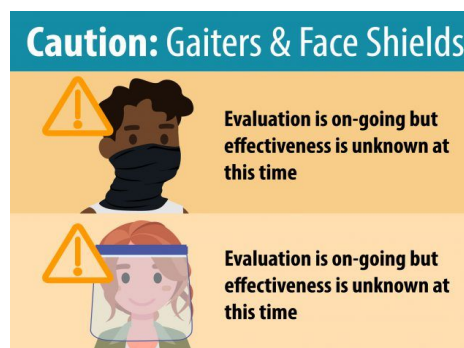
[Spanish: Regreso a la Esquela: Usar Una Cubierta DE Tela Para La Cara](#)



Cloth masks are best when made with tight-knit cotton fabric (if you can see the light passing through the fabric, it's not tight enough) and have 2 to 3 layers.

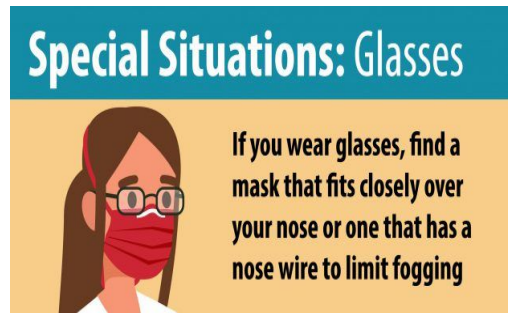
- Wear masks with two or more layers to stop the spread of COVID-19
- The mask should fit snugly around the nose and secure under your chin, and no gap at the side. If the ear loops are too big or loose, the mask will fall off while speaking.
- If the mask becomes wet for any reason, it is more difficult to breathe through. It should be put aside to dry, and a new mask should be worn. It is recommended to pack 2 face clothes for the day for back-up.
- Cloth masks should be washed at the end of the day.

Neck gaiters/bandanas are not acceptable. CDC does not recommend the use of gaiters or face shields. Evaluation of these face covers is on-going but effectiveness is unknown at this time. If a student or staff member comes to school with a single layer cloth mask (a neck gaiter or bandana), we will provide a surgical mask for that day and ask that you please acquire a better mask for the next day you or your child will be in the school buildings.



Disposable surgical masks are also relatively in short supply, and the CDC recommends that those be reserved for health care workers and others at a higher risk of exposure. However, since they are becoming more available, many people wear them, and they are included here.

- To fit correctly, the nose piece must be pinched against the nose, and the bottom part pulled under the chin.
- Also, the elastics should not be twisted to make it smaller. Twisting the elastics causes a gap at the side. Either tying, using a tiny hair elastic, or using a small bead to slide up and down the elastic works better. (Check out the Tech-ni-Ally video for more suggestions!)



If you have questions about what is acceptable, please consult the resources below—and if you still have questions, contact your building principal or school nurse for further guidance.

Resources:

Center for Disease Control:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.htm>

<https://health.ri.gov/publications/guidelines/COVID19-Wear-A-Mask.pdf>

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1d5lEDjpN6OlwOGf4LxlZV_yRcn5og5l6/view?usp=sharing