

## Can staff and students wear a face mask in school?

Yes

## Am I required to wear a face mask in school?

No.

Public Health England **does not** (based on current evidence) recommend the use of face coverings in schools. They are not required in schools as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. There may also be negative effects on communication and thus education.

The Trust and School Risk Assessment details our steps to minimise the risk and therefore why face coverings are not required. We will continue to closely follow government guidance and all staff must continue to ensure that they fully understand their schools risk assessment and what steps they must take to ensure any risk are minimised.

## Can I choose to wear a face mask in school?

Yes for short periods of time if the following steps are followed and understood.

Public Health England do not recommend the use of face coverings in schools. The Trust schools do not recommend the use of face coverings in schools however we recognise that some staff or students (if of age) may wish to wear a mask for short periods of time

Face coverings are mainly intended to protect others and not the wearer. They may be beneficial for short periods indoors where there is a risk of close social contact with people you do not usually meet and where social distancing and other measures cannot be maintained, for example on public transport or in shops.

Face coverings are not designed to be worn for long periods of time as they become moist and this creates a medium where bacteria and viruses can grow. Masks can increase the risk of virus transmission if worn for long periods of time, not used correctly and when donning, doffing and disposing of coverings. This is one of the reasons why they are not being advised in schools.

You must wash your hands before putting the face mask on and after taking it off.

If people do choose to wear them they should bring sufficient spares – washable or disposable – for the number of hours they will be in that setting and follow the hygiene rules in donning/doffing/disposing (see below). This is important for any member of staff or students to be aware of should they wish to wear a face covering.

If someone does choose to wear a face mask then they should be aware of the do's and don'ts of wearing one – see next page

## How to wear a face covering

A face covering should:

- cover your nose and mouth while allowing you to breathe comfortably
- fit comfortably but securely against the side of the face
- be secured to the head with ties or ear loops
- be made of a material that you find to be comfortable and breathable, such as cotton
- ideally include at least two layers of fabric (the World Health Organisation recommends three)
- unless disposable, it should be able to be washed and dried without causing it to be damaged

When wearing a face covering you should:

- **wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before putting it on**
- avoid wearing on your neck or forehead
- avoid touching the part of the face covering in contact with your mouth and nose, as it could be contaminated with the virus
- change the face covering if it becomes damp or if you've touched it
- avoid taking it off and putting it back on a lot in quick succession (for example, when leaving and entering shops on a high street)

When removing a face covering:

- **wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser before removing**
- only handle the straps, ties or clips
- do not give it to someone else to use
- if single-use, dispose of it carefully in a residual waste bin and do not recycle
- if reusable, wash it in line with manufacturer's instructions at the highest temperature appropriate for the fabric
- wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds or use hand sanitiser once removed

# HOW TO WEAR A NON-MEDICAL FABRIC MASK SAFELY

[who.int/epi-win](https://www.who.int/epi-win)

## Do's →



Clean your hands before touching the mask



Inspect the mask for damage or if dirty



Adjust the mask to your face without leaving gaps on the sides



Cover your mouth, nose, and chin



Avoid touching the mask



Clean your hands before removing the mask



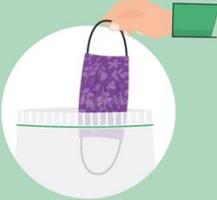
Remove the mask by the straps behind the ears or head



Pull the mask away from your face



Store the mask in a clean plastic, resealable bag if it is not dirty or wet and you plan to re-use it



Remove the mask by the straps when taking it out of the bag

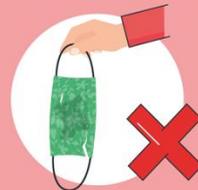


Wash the mask in soap or detergent, preferably with hot water, at least once a day



Clean your hands after removing the mask

## Don'ts →



Do not use a mask that looks damaged



Do not wear a loose mask



Do not wear the mask under the nose



Do not remove the mask where there are people within 1 metre



Do not use a mask that is difficult to breathe through



Do not wear a dirty or wet mask



Do not share your mask with others

**A fabric mask can protect others around you. To protect yourself and prevent the spread of COVID-19, remember to keep at least 1 metre distance from others, clean your hands frequently and thoroughly, and avoid touching your face and mask.**



**World Health Organization**

