

## [Resources for Supporting Children to Return to In-Person Learning During COVID-19 – Face Coverings](#)

This document provides resources to families to support them in preparing their children for wearing face coverings when returning to in person learning during COVID-19.

### **TIPS FOR TEACHING MASK WEARING**

- [Tips for teaching mask wearing](#)
  - Strategies for increasing likelihood of mask wearing
  - Strategies for increasing amount of time of mask wearing
- [Mask Wearing Tips for Kids with Sensory Issues](#) (Any age)
- [Trouble Wearing a Mask. How to Help Kids at School](#) (Any age)
- [Helping Children with Autism Wear Masks \(Short Video\)](#)
  - Pairing, Shaping, etc.

### **VIDEOS, ANIMATIONS, AND SONGS FOR WEARING A MASK**

- [Everybody's Wearing Mask](#) MPS Music Therapist Melissa Hentges, MT-BC (Any age)
- [Wear, Wear, Wear Your Mask](#) by Dr. Jean (Pre- K-2)
- [Wearing a Mask Informative Video](#) (K-5)

### **SOCIAL STORIES FOR WEARING A MASK**

- [Wearing a Mask at School](#) (PreK-5): Free PDF
- [Wearing a Mask in English and Spanish](#) (MS/HS): Free Book and Video
- [I Can Wear a Mask](#) (MS/HS): Free Book
- [My Teacher Wears a Mask](#) (PreK-5): Free Book with Photos
- [Why Aren't They Wearing a Mask!?!?](#) (PreK-5): Free PDF
- [Seeing Other People in PPE](#) (MS/HS): Free PDF
- Mask Etiquette in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) (Prek-5): Free PDF

### **VISUALS FOR WEARING A MASK**

- [Mask on/Mask off visual](#) (Any age): Free PDF
- [Visual Sequence Strip for Putting Mask On and Taking Mask Off](#)

### **NEED TO KNOW FROM THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

- [Minnesota Department of Health Best Practices for Masks: Considerations for People with Disabilities and Special Health Needs](#)
- [Minnesota Department of Health 2020-2021 Planning Guide for Schools](#) (specifically, pages 7-9)
- Face coverings are required per Minnesota Governor Order 20-81. Mask mandate [exemptions](#) include:
  - People who have medical or other health conditions, disabilities, or mental health, developmental, or behavioral needs that make it difficult to tolerate wearing a face covering.
  - Any person who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, sleeping, incapacitated, or is otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.
  - Children under age 2.

If a face covering cannot be worn, 6 feet social distance should be maintained. See section below, "Face Covering FAQs"

## FACE COVERING FAQs

<p>What safety measures are in place for staff working with students with disabilities who may have a difficult time keeping their face coverings on and are excluded from wearing a face covering due to their disability?</p>	<p>Special Education staff will work with families to ensure they have the appropriate medical documentation if their student is unable to wear a face covering. Some families may also choose to keep their students in distance learning. MPS will support families in whatever choice is right for their family. Personal protective equipment will be provided to staff per current Minnesota Department of Health guidelines.</p> <p>The <b>Health Services Team</b> at each site will provide training to case managers regarding medical documentation forms, and will support families in the medical documentation process.</p>
<p>Will students who are unable to wear a face covering be separated from students who are wearing face coverings?</p>	<p>All students, whether wearing a face covering or not, will be able to be with their peers for in-person instruction. Having students wear a face covering is only one part of our protocols to help keep staff and students safe. Staff will be able to consult with our Health Services Team on other options to mitigate exposure such as social distancing and personal protective equipment.</p>
<p>Will school teams let families know that there may be students in their child's class who will not wear a face covering?</p>	<p>We will communicate with families that Minneapolis and the state are under a face covering mandate and that students must wear a mask to school unless they have a medical reason they cannot. Students who cannot wear a face covering must provide medical documentation stating they cannot wear a face covering. Because the inability to wear a face covering is often due to a disability, MPS cannot disclose this information to other families.</p>
<p>Should school teams amend IEPs for the teaching and learning of student face coverings?</p>	<p>Teams may amend IEPs for the teaching and learning of student face coverings. If amended, a face covering goal and/or adaptation would likely fit under the <i>Adaptive/Self-Help</i> section of IEPs.</p>
<p>If a family does not provide a face covering for their child, may the school provide a face covering for the student?</p>	<p>Yes; school personnel will provide a face covering for the student unless a medical reason has already been established.</p>

<p>If a student is unable to put their own face covering back on, are school staff expected to help put it back on even though it doesn't maintain the required social distance of 6 feet?</p>	<p>If a student needs assistance in putting on a face covering, school staff can assist the student. School staff should contact their Health Services Team to determine a plan of care per current MDH guidance (e.g., PPE training if needed; use of gloves as additional PPE; use of face shield as additional PPE; etc.).</p>
<p>MDH recommends participants/children only wear face coverings if they can reliably wear, remove, and handle the cloth face covering throughout the day. If school staff see students unable to do this, are school teams to require a medical waiver?</p>	<p>Please work with your Health Services Team to determine what appropriate next steps would be as each situation is individualized.</p>