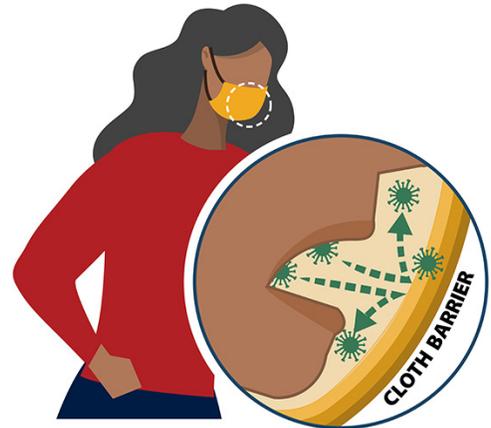


# Masks, Face Coverings and Face Shields



Wichita Public Schools, following CDC guidelines, **REQUIRES** all **teachers, staff, students and visitors** to wear face coverings in all WPS facilities. We highly recommend wearing them in public and when around people who don't live in their households. Cloth face coverings may help prevent people who have COVID-19 from spreading the virus to others.

- Masks/face coverings must be worn upon entering WPS property and buses.
- A mask/face coverings can include disposable masks or cloth masks.
- A mask/face covering must cover the nose and mouth completely. The covering should fit snugly but comfortably against the sides of the face and be secured with ties or ear loops to hold it in place.
- Any masks/face coverings that incorporate valves to facilitate easy exhaling, mesh masks, or masks with openings, holes, visible gaps in the design or materials, or vents are **not sufficient** face coverings because they allow droplets to be released from the mask.
- Masks should not cover the entire face or head (i.e., toy costume masks, ski masks, helmets).
- Individuals must remain identifiable to school staff while wearing their mask. Anyone may be asked by school administration to remove their mask to verify their identity.
- Students and staff should never share or swap face coverings/masks.
- All masks/face coverings must follow current school dress codes.



It is not known if face shields provide any benefit as source control to protect others from the spray of respiratory particles. **Except in the case noted below, WPS does not allow the use of face shields as a substitute for cloth face coverings.** They may be worn in addition to cloth face coverings.

- Face shields may be an alternative for students/staff identified by the district in coordination with the student's/staff's medical provider for those with medical, behavioral, other challenges who are unable to wear a face mask that covers their nose and mouth.
- When approved, a face shield must extend below the chin and to the ears, and there should be no exposed gap between the forehead and the shields headpiece.

# Types of masks



Some masks work better than others to help stop the spread of COVID-19 outside of healthcare settings. Medical masks and N-95 respirators should be conserved for healthcare personnel. Based on these CDC guidelines, **WPS has established the following face covering expectations.** If an individual is wearing a mask that is not allowed, they will be given an appropriate mask to wear and reminded of the WPS mask expectations.

## Recommended and Allowed



Non-medical disposable masks  
OR cloth masks that meet all the  
recommendations listed below



Must have two or three layers



Fit properly (snugly around the  
nose and chin with no large gaps  
around the sides of the face)



Made with breathable fabric  
(such as cotton)



Made with tightly woven fabric  
(i.e., fabrics that do not let light  
pass through when held up to a  
light source)



Masks with inner filter pockets  
(allowed, not required)

## Not Allowed



Masks with one layer



Masks with exhalation valves  
or vents



Masks made from loosely  
woven fabric or that are knitted  
(i.e., fabrics that let light pass  
through)



Masks that do not fit properly  
(large gaps, too loose or too  
tight)



Wearing a scarf/ski mask as a  
mask



Masks made from materials that  
are hard to breathe through  
(such as plastic or leather)

## Special Considerations



Neck gaiters can be worn as long as they meet all other requirements above, including at least two layers of cloth and adherence to school dress codes.

Bandanas and fashion scarves are acceptable if they are folded to create at least two layers of fabric, fit snugly over the mouth and nose, have no ends dangling loosely at the bottom and conform to school dress codes.