



## CCRCE Guidelines for Mask Use

*This information may be subject to change to reflect the latest Public Health information or updated documentation/directives from EECD, regarding the COVID-19 circumstance.*

Although all staff and students may choose to wear a mask whenever they feel appropriate to do so, this document is meant to further clarify expectations of when masks are required to be worn in CCRCE during COVID-19 precautions.

Notes regarding mask use and physical distancing:

A very small number of children and students with sensory or health issues may not be able to tolerate wearing a non-medical mask. Student planning teams will develop appropriate plans for these children.

- A very small number of staff may have a medical issue that prevents them from wearing a non-medical mask. An appropriate medical accommodation will be determined in consultation with Human Resources and Employee Health.
- Where a specific program requires students to see a teacher's lips, a fitted mask with clear material may be used. Staff may obtain these through their CCRCE Program Coordinator. These masks should not replace regular re-usable masks and only used on an as needed basis for the specific programming basis.
- Teachers are to organize classrooms to maximize physical distancing, as much as possible. The teacher may organize the classroom so that they can physically distance however, this should not impede the ability for students to physically distance while in the classroom.
- For Grades 4-12, teachers may also organize groups where part of the class may physically distance (mask not required) and the other group is unable to physically distance (must continue to wear a mask).
- Classes are encouraged to mark where necessary, to provide a space within the classroom that maintains the 2m physical distancing and is considered a no mask zone for students and staff that may need a short break from wearing a mask.

### Re-usable Masks

- Re-usable masks are provided in a package of 2 for each student and staff. Masks for new students or staff may be obtained through Health & Safety if the school does not have extras on hand. The school should provide the exact numbers required and grades of new students.

### Disposable Masks

- Disposable masks should be ordered through purchasing, as directed. Each school will be responsible to distribute masks on an as needed basis. Schools are asked to try to be conservative with the distribution of disposable masks and manage any issues with consistent users, such as, if students have lost their provided re-usable masks and are unable to purchase other ones, new ones can be provided. Contact Health & Safety for additional masks as needed. Schools will have access to disposable masks supplies as needed.

### **Non-Medical Re-Usable Masks should:**

- fit securely to the head with ties or ear loops
- allow for easy breathing
- not be made entirely of plastic
- not be made of plastic, unless there are at least 2 layers of tightly woven material fabric (like cotton or linen) surrounding the plastic, without gaping
- must be fitted to the face
- be made of tightly woven material fabric
- cover the nose and mouth without gaping

## **Students**

### **Masks & Outside:**

When students are outside, they should attempt to physically distance and masks are not required to be worn. When students are participating in physical activity such as physical education class, masks are not required to be worn, inside or outside. Students grade 4-12 should wear masks if they leave the gymnasium area for any reason.

### **All Students PP-12 on the bus:**

- All students must wear a mask while traveling on the bus. These students will be reminded to remove their mask in a location where hands can be cleaned, and masks can be stored safely until needed.
- Hands should be washed or sanitized before handling the mask to put it back on.

### **Grades PP -3**

- Masks are not required to be worn in school or outside on the school grounds. If students choose to wear a mask, they should be supported.

### **Grades 4-12 (including all children in $\frac{3}{4}$ combined classrooms):**

- Students who are in grades 4 to 12 must wear masks if they cannot physically distance, even if they are in their cohort. All students in grades 4 to 12 will be required to wear a mask inside schools except if they are seated at their desks while two meters apart and seats are facing in the same direction. Masks must also be worn in hallways and other common areas if a two-meter distance cannot be maintained.
- Students may remove their masks during indoor physical activity, including physical education class, when a mask cannot be worn or while they are eating and drinking. Masks are not required during outside activities.

## **Staff**

All staff will wear masks whenever they are unable to maintain physical distance from others. This includes staff working with Pre-primary to Grade 3 students. In other circumstances, employees may choose to wear a non-medical mask during the workday whenever they feel it is appropriate. Supervisors should not require staff to wear masks that go beyond Public Health or CCRCE requirements.

- In some circumstances, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), such as medical masks, face shields or gloves, will be identified as additional required PPE due to risks associated with tasks the employee may be required to perform (e.g. If there is a typical risk of bodily fluids exposure (saliva, spit, etc.), a teacher or EA may also be required to wear a face shield. This is to be determined by the Student Planning Team.)

## **Building Visitors or Contractors**

- While inside CCRCE buildings or sites, visitors or contractors shall be required to wear a mask. It is expected that they will supply their own mask.

## **Any Staff, Student or Visitor Who Becomes Ill at a CCRCE School or Worksite**

- Any person at a CCRCE school or work site who becomes ill with COVID-19 symptoms, must isolate from others and ensure that a mask is worn at all times and until the person is able to leave to go home. Students are required to wear a mask as they wait for parent/guardian pick up in the designated sick room.