

# Edmonds School District Mask Guidance

## Students, Staff, & Community

Masks are recommended as a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the mask coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice. Masks are an example of source control. Several studies have documented asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic COVID-19 transmission; meaning that people with COVID-19 who never develop symptoms (asymptomatic) and those who are not yet showing symptoms (pre-symptomatic) can still transmit the virus to other people. [Masks](#) are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected. It is important that all students are insured access to their Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), as such if there are questions about appropriate mask wearing, please contact the COVID supervisor at your building (see below or the refer to the [Reopening Schools - OSPI Guidance for Special Ed](#))

All students, volunteers, or guests must wear cloth face coverings or an acceptable alternative while on school sites and in district transportation. Students are required to provide their own cloth face covering. If a student arrives on the bus or at school without a mask or their mask isn't fitting properly they will be given a disposable mask to wear. The school district will have disposable masks available on each bus and at each school for students and staff as necessary.

While working in a workspace without students, ESD sites are considered a low to medium transmission risk. When working with students in the General Education setting, DHH and VI programs, they are generally considered low to medium transmission risk. When working with students in the Special Education IS, DK, and ISES programs, they are considered a medium to high transmission risk environment. During crisis situations most programs are considered a high transmission risk. Staff are expected to follow the PPE guidelines. The COVID supervisor will assist with acquiring higher levels of protection on an individual need basis.

Low Transmission Risk	Medium Transmission Risk	High Transmission Risk	Very High Transmission Risk
Healthy/ Asymptomatic (No COVID-19 Symptoms)	Healthy/ Asymptomatic (No COVID-19 Symptoms)	Healthy/ Asymptomatic (No COVID-19 Symptoms)	Probable or Known COVID-19 Source or Aerosolizing Care Activity (Containment Room Staff)

Reusable cloth face covering that fully covers the mouth and nose.	Face shield with a cloth face covering.	Industrial strength N95 with no valves	Industrial strength N95 with no valves
A face shield that includes a cloth extension attached to the entire edge of the shield as an acceptable accommodation.	OR non- cloth disposables: dust mask or KN95.	OR Face shield plus KN95 (if a respirator cannot be responsibly obtained)	OR Face shield plus KN95 (if a respirator cannot be responsibly obtained)

Appropriate and consistent use of masks is most important when students, teachers, and staff are indoors and when social distancing of at least 6 feet is difficult to implement or maintain.

Masks should not be **placed** on:

- Anyone who is having trouble breathing or is unconscious.
- Anyone who is incapacitated and otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

Considerations for cloth face mask wearing and alternatives or mitigating strategies :

- Those with a disability that prevents them from wearing or removing a face covering .
- Those with certain respiratory conditions or trouble breathing.
- Those who communicate with students and staff who have a hearing loss and where they rely on facial and mouth movements as part of communication.
- Those advised by a medical, legal, or behavioral health professional that wearing a face covering may pose a risk to that person.

Appropriate and consistent use of masks may be challenging for some students, teachers, and staff, including:

- Younger students, such as those in early elementary school.
- Students, teachers, and staff with severe asthma or other breathing difficulties.
- Students, teachers, and staff with special educational or healthcare needs, including intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental health conditions, and sensory concerns or tactile sensitivity.