PRESENTATION 3

Mask-Use For Children and Youth:
Refresher For School and Child Care Settings

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Objectives

• To discuss the importance of non-medical masking for source control (keeping ones droplets to themselves) in the prevention of COVID-19
• To review how to properly put on and take off a non-medical mask
What is the Purpose Of Wearing A Non-Medical Masking?

• Masks are indicated for use in schools and child care settings as a form of **Source control**.

• Source control means wearing a non-medical mask (i.e. cloth) to protect those around you from your respiratory droplets (e.g. coughs and sneezes).

Considerations for Mask Use

- **Benefits from source control**
  - Keeping ones droplets to themselves

- **Negative consequences**
  - Developmental considerations
  - Social interactions
What Does a Well-fitting Mask Look Like?

A well-fitting mask:

• Fits over nose, mouth and chin with no gaping
• Is comfortable so no need to adjust
How NOT To Wear a Mask

- Around your neck
- On your forehead
- Under your nose
- Only on your nose
- On your chin
- Dangling from one ear
- On your arm

Should The Mask Be Two-Layers Or Three-Layers?

• Three-layer non-medical or cloth masks with a filter layer may theoretically offer greater filtration

• Additional layers may make it more difficult for the wearer to breathe

• Mask needs to be well-fitting (i.e. no gaping)

• Consistent and appropriate use of either is the most important thing to do when unable to physically distance or in shared indoor spaces
How Should Masks Be Put On?

Steps on putting on the mask safely:

1. Perform hand hygiene - wash your hands or use hand sanitizer.
2. Pick up mask using ear loops.
3. Expand the mask.
4. Place mask on your face by securing loops around your ears.
5. Adjust mask to cover your chin and pinch metal nose piece (if available) to give a secure fit.


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How Should Masks Be Taken Off?

Steps on removing the mask safely:

1. Perform hand hygiene – wash your hands or use hand sanitizer.
2. Remove the mask using the ear loops only.
3. Please conserve your mask for as long as possible.
4. Place the mask on a clean surface/storage container with the inner mask facing upwards to avoid contamination.
5. Perform hand hygiene – wash your hands or use hand sanitizer.

For re-applying the mask:

1. Perform hand hygiene – wash your hands or use hand sanitizer.
2. Pick up the mask from the clean surface/storage container using the ear loops.
3. Adjust the mask to your face as indicated in the above steps.
4. Perform hand hygiene (hand washing or sanitizer) after you’re done.

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Which Children/Youth Should NOT Wear a Mask?

• Masks should not be worn by children who are:
  • under the age of 2
  • unable to tolerate a mask (e.g., due to a medical condition or inability to wear/remove the mask properly)
  • unable to remove the mask without assistance

• There can be exemptions to wearing face masks for some children/youth and these should be discussed on a case-by-case basis in accordance with provincial, local public health and school board requirements.
What if a Child/Youth Cannot Wear a Mask - Should They Use a Face Shield?

• Important to remember that masking is only one of several health and safety measures implemented in schools to protect other students and school staff.

• Face shields are not considered an effective form of source control when worn alone.

• Face shields are used for eye protection and are meant to be worn in conjunction with a face mask.
For More Information ...

Public Health Ontario resources:

- COVID-19 Preparedness and Prevention in Elementary and Secondary (K-12) Schools: Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Overview
- How To Wash Your Hands
- Putting On/Taking Off PPE
- When and How to Wear a Mask
- Infection Prevention and Control Fundamentals
- Infection Prevention and Control Tips for Children Attending School
- COVID-19 Preparedness and Prevention in Elementary and Secondary (K-12) Schools Checklist
- COVID-19 Preparedness and Prevention in Elementary and Secondary (K-12) Schools - Checklist Orientation (webinar)
- Public Health Ontario – Schools and COVID-19 webpage
How did we do?

Your feedback is important to us. Please provide your input by clicking on the survey button. Thank you!
Acknowledgements

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