

# CLOTH FACE COVERINGS IN SCHOOLS

## What Families Need to Know

A cloth face covering covers the nose and mouth while being secured to the head with ties or straps, or simply wrapped around the lower face. This document provides answers to some questions on how to effectively use and clean cloth face coverings. The CDC and DHS offer additional information on cloth face coverings and how to properly wear one.

### Who should wear cloth face coverings?



Cloth face coverings are strongly recommended for both students and staff who are able to wear and remove them properly. Cloth face coverings can help prevent the wearer from spreading disease if they are asymptomatic (do not show any symptoms) or do not realize they are sick.

### How do I talk to my kids about why some people may not be able to wear a face covering?

This is a good opportunity to talk to your children about trauma, racism and discrimination, as well as the need for acceptance, understanding, and empathy regarding the reasons it may not be safe for everyone to wear a cloth face covering. Another opportunity for family discussion is the topic of protecting the health of friends, stressing that it is important for people who are able to wear a cloth face covering to do whatever they can to protect people who are less able to do so. Make sure kids understand that it isn't their job to enforce wearing or not wearing face coverings.

### How can I make wearing a cloth face covering most effective?



Properly worn cloth face coverings help to reduce the release of infectious particles into the air when the wearer speaks, coughs, or sneezes. However, they are not a replacement for physical distancing and handwashing and should be used alongside other best practices. Our best defense against COVID-19 is practicing good public health: washing our hands frequently; avoiding touching our eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands; avoiding being around sick people; and physical distancing (at least 6 feet apart) from others, especially people we don't live with.

## RESOURCES

**CDC Recommendations on Cloth Face Covers**  
[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html)  
**DHS Information on Cloth Face Covers**  
[www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/protect.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/protect.htm)



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