

FAQ - Health and Safety

MASKS

Q: Can I wear my own mask, cloth or otherwise?

A: No, you must wear the blue medical masks distributed by the school.

Q: How many masks will I get?

A: The school will provide 2 masks a day, and if both become damaged or soiled, more can be requested through administration.

Q: When can I remove my mask?

A: While eating or drinking while physically distanced, and when working synchronously in the afternoon alone in a classroom or while physically distanced.

Q: If I can maintain physical distancing during class, can I remove my mask, such as phys ed or tech for example?

A: Teachers are to wear masks at all times with student cohorts

Q: If I have class outside, on the field or otherwise, can I remove my mask?

A: No, at this time, the Board is asking for masks to be worn by teachers at all times unless medical accommodations, which we work through with Disability Management.

Q: Are there different mask options?

A: The Board has access to 4 different types of masks. They are:

1. Sterilized level 1 medical masks
2. Non-sterilized level 1 medical masks
3. Level 2 medical masks (used for special ed and other close contact areas)
4. Clear masks (used in situations where seeing the mouth would be a requirement)

FYI: There are few accommodations for mask wearing at this time unless there is a supported medical note for a specific reason, not just rash/hard to breathe in mask

FACE SHIELDS

Q: When do I have to wear the face shield?

A: Whenever in with the cohort and physical distancing cannot be maintained - required 2 metres from staff member/student

Q: My face shield is fogging up, what do I do?

A: There is a protective film on both sides of the shield, and if removed should help with fogging

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Q: What are my responsibilities for cleaning in a classroom?

A: Teacher and students are to clean any program materials that are being shared, which would include desks and chairs if rotating

A: Teachers, assisted by students, are to clean any program materials, including all equipment used during the face to face time

A: The only time you would have to clean a desk/chair is if you have your students moving through stations or around the room, then it is considered part of programming

A: If the students remain in their own desk/chair, caretakers will clean twice a day as they are high touch points

FYI: Caretakers are being required to go to the elementary schools and leaving secondary schools short of the duties for cleaning. In most cases, is not the fault of the caretaker, it is due to staffing constraints. Please let me know of schools where there is an issue, and send pictures if possible.

Q: What about Fire Drills or Lock Downs?

A: A memo went out on Sept 29 regarding how to do fire drills during COVID. There are to be one per cohort, and a third that is a walkthrough. For the drill, the alarm will sound for a short amount of time, then stop so that classes can be called individually to physically distance and leave the building via the appropriate exit route. After re-entering, please wash hands or use sanitizer.

A: For Hold & Secure/Lockdown drills, they will be a walkthrough on what to do only

Q: How do I clean technology such as chrome books?

A: you are to use disinfectant wipes provided by the school and have the students help wipe down after use and the end of the face to face block

Q: Have schools updated their ventilation to help reduce the spread of COVID?

A: The Board has done 3 things to meet standards for COVID:

1. Upgraded air filters to MERC 13
2. Increased the amount of fresh air intake
3. Flush the air in the building 2 hours before staff enters

Q: What about older buildings or portables that have inadequate ventilation systems?

A: The Board is assessing and installing portable ventilation units with carbon and HEPA filters.

Q: Can I bring in my own filtration unit?

A: No, you cannot bring in your own. There may be exceptions through DM for medical accommodations.

Q: What if I deem the air quality in my classroom/office is poor?

A: Let your principal and Scott West know so an air quality test can be conducted.

Q: How much hand sanitizer is allowed in a room?

A: One bottle, to a maximum of 1.2 L is allowable for fire code purposes